SPORTS / A23
Alonso retains F1 title after Schumacher has tire trouble; Massa wins race

BUSINESS / B1
Better prospects push up stocks to 9-year high

METRO / A17
Neonatal sepsis cases common at Rizal Medical Center, says probe team

NEWS / A2
Gonzalez, Brion at loggerheads over nurses' oath-taking

Datu seeks to preserve Moro identity on film

By Volt Contreras

A YOUNG DATU FROM MAGUINDANAO IS waging a different kind of battle on behalf of the Bangsamoro people: this weapon of choice: A movie camera.

On the sidelines of a conference sponsored by the National Commission on Culture and the Arts (NCCA) last week in Quezon City,

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Tuesday, October 24, 2006 ** Vol. 21 / No. 218 newsinfo.inq7.net

'Little officials' learn, teach good governance

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

THE "NEW CONGRESSman" of Marikina City is not interested in Charter change.

He has more pressing problems on his mind, like discouraging students

MUSLIM women attend morning prayers at the Luneta Grandstand during the celebration of Eid'l Fitr (Feast of Charity) marking the end of the Islamic fasting month of Ramadan.

60% of Pinoys doubt SC fairness, says poll

SWS gauges trust on Cha-cha ruling

SIX OUT OF EVERY 10 FILIPINOS ARE "unsure" the Supreme Court will decide fairly on the petition for a people's initiative filed by Sigaw ng Bayan and the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (Ulap), according to the third-quarter 2006 Social Weather Stations (SWS) survey.

The finding cuts across all areas and socioeconomic classes, the SWS said in a statement.

The opinion is most prevalent in Metro Manila (68 percent), followed by 64 percent in Mindanao, 61 percent in the rest of Luzon, and 58 percent in the Visayas.

The sentiment is also shared by 60 percent of respondents in classes ABC, 62 percent in class D and 63 percent in class E.

The survey was conducted from Sept. 28 to Oct. 2 using face-to-face interviews with 1,200 nationally representative households. It had a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percentage points.

Asked if they had "much trust, even unsure or bad little trust that the Supreme Court would make a fair decision on whether to grant the petition of Sigaw ng Bayan and Ulap regarding the people's initiative," 62 percent of the respondents said they were unsure.

Twenty-four percent said they had "little trust" and 13 percent said they had "much trust" that the high tribunal would make a fair decision.

Sigaw ng Bayan and Ulap elevated to the Supreme Court their petition to amend the Constitution via a people's initiative, which entailed the collection of signatures of at least 3 percent of all registered voters in each district statewide, after it was rejected by the Commission on Elections on Aug. 31.

Last week, Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban admitted that the tribunal— which is expected to decide on the petition by the end of the month—had

60% OF PINOYS, A-5

VISITING Thai Prime Minister Surayud Chulanont is welcomed by President Macapagal-Arroyo in Malacañang.

GMA honors new Thai premier

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THAILAND'S MILITARY-INSTALLED prime minister last night awarded President Macapagal-Arroyo his government's highest honor for democracy in a year's time, and she robbed him success in his efforts.

Prime Minister Surayud Chulanont met with Mrs Arroyo at Malacañang shortly after arriving in Manila on a lightning five-hour visit as part of his Southeast Asian tour.

In their meeting, Chulanont gave the President a bird's eye view of his plans to steer Thailand back to civilian rule.

The visit came toward the end of Surayud's regional tour, during which he had sought to reassure his counterparts of Thailand's return to normalcy following last month's putsch. (See related story in The World, Page A20.)

In his speech during the dinner, Mrs Arroyo said: "Your Excellency, the community of nations, especially Asean (Association of Southeast Asian Nations), wishes you all the best as you undertake the task of al-

GMA HONORS, A-9

Muslims celebrate Eid'l Fitr, shun terror

By Nash B. Maulana
Inquirer Mindanao

COTABATO CITY—RELIGIOUS leaders of Islam yesterday declared terrorism "haram" (unlawful) during simultaneous congregational prayers marking the end of Ramadan in Muslim-dominated provinces and cities.

The congregational prayers were held in observance of Eid'l Fitr (Feast of Charity). To mark the occasion, President Macapagal-Arroyo declared today a national holiday in the largely Roman Catholic country.

Eid'l Fitr marks the end of the Muslim fasting month.

In a Muslim (sermon) at a 6 a.m. congregation at City Hall here, Ustada Abdulraof Guialani, a member of the fraternity of Philippine Da'wa Ifta (Ajid) or Houses of Opinion), declared senseless violence haram three times.

"Allah has made it haram to kill children; Allah has made it haram to kill women; Allah has made it haram to kill elderly people," Guialani said.

A similar teaching was delivered in open field prayers elsewhere in the country, particularly in the areas of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, Ustadz Ismael Ibrahim, a senior member of the Ajid, told the Inquirer.

This year marked the first time in many years that political and religious leaders had unanimously agreed on a common date to celebrate Eid'l Fitr.

ARMM Gov. Zaldy Uy Ampatuan

MUSLIMS, A-9

Microbes eating oil in Pandacan to the rescue

SCIENTISTS AND SCHOLars, as well as engineers and environmentalists, will have to be adept both in upcoming robotic arms from submarines and smelling oil-eating microbes to find a lasting solution to the oil spill from Guimaras. Luckily, they don't have to look far.

Experts from the Department of Science and Technology have found an indigenous source of oil-gobbling bacteria that can clean up Guimaras in a jiffy.

Unfortunately, the bacteria, found in great abundance in the oil-rich waters

MICROBES, A-6

GUIMARAS OIL SPILL

Retrieval a complicated eng'g operation

JAN OLD seaman Israel Jay Perras clears up a limestone formation covered with bunker fuel oil along the shores of Nueva Valencia, Guimaras.

By Leila B. Salaverria
Journal Staff Writer

EXPERTS ARE FAST-TRACKING intricate engineering preparations for the dangerous task of removing the remaining bunker fuel oil from the sunken MT Solar I as international insurers and scientists decide on the most auspicious time to carry out the retrieval operations.

It will not be easy, say Philippine officials and environmentalists, who have been blending their heads to see to it that the recovery effort, to be financed by the London-based International Oil Pollution Compensation Fund (IOPC), will come off without a hitch.

i-TEAM Report
Fernando del Mundo
Chief

Just assembling the equipment will take weeks for the operation that will have to take place on a clear day, when the sea is calm.

The Solar I was carrying 2.1 million liters of oil for Petron Corp. from Bataan to Zamboanga del Sur when it went down on Aug. 11 in choppy waters off Guimaras, causing environmental damage to the island's rich marine life and resorts.

Siphoning the oil will re-

RETRIEVAL, A-6

Ex-bureau head gets jail term

By Norman Bordadora

THE SANDIGANBAYAN HAS convicted former Immigration Commissioner Zaldy Recptor for allowing the deportation of 13 Italians instead of holding them for trial in the Philippines on drug charges 12 years ago.

The 5th Division of the anti-graft court found Recptor guilty of graft and falsification of public documents and sentenced him to a minimum of 12 years in prison and to pay a fine of P72,000.

Recptor, 58, is free on bail while he appeals the decision, the

EX-BUREAU, A-6

A2
WEATHER FORECAST
FORECAST: Moderate with occasional cloudy skies with light thunderstorms in the afternoon. The rest of the country will be mostly cloudy to cloudy with isolated thunderstorms.
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
Second FRONTPAGE
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2006

NURSING OATH-TAKING

2 GMA men on collision course

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Jerome Aning

THE GOVERNMENT HAS NO RECOURSE BUT to administer the professional oath to the nursing graduates who passed the scandal-tainted June 2006 licensure exam once the Court of Appeals order to do so takes effect on Dec. 28.

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said President Macapagal-Arroyo had made up her mind to obey the CA ruling allowing the examinees to proceed even if the Cabinet appointed deputy decided on the issue.

Labor Secretary Arturo Brion last week dropped the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) from administering the oath to the successful examinees pending the end of the investigation into the scandal.

"I'm only avoiding complications that may hinder the closure [of the issue]," Brion said in an interview yesterday.

The appellate court had ordered that all those who took and passed the nursing exam outside Metro Manila and Baguio City and those who were unplanned for and did not attend the "reviewing" session conducted by the three review centers suspected of leaking the test questions be allowed to take their oath in unison.

Gonzalez said the President must be getting Brion boxed in this way until the CA decision became final on Dec. 28 "out of respect" for the labor secretary. "Pinagkikigan ako [long-because in the end we have to implement it]," Gonzalez said in an interview with the Inquirer.

There are no points in delaying the oath-taking, he added, because the PRC could easily settle the fairness of those who might be affected by the ruling.

Gonzalez said Brion's position was not to allow the oath-taking until all those who had breached were the final had been identified.

So far the CA has ordered 1,847 of the 17,021 graduates who passed the examinations (both BS [or bachelor of nursing] nursing and "N" [or for non-nursing].

"His (Brion) position has always been constant. He was always for a strike and we had drafted in the Cabinet were that I said that the solution was from the victims from the culprits and the real culprits were the nursing board commissioners. My position is exactly what the CA did on all four counts," Gonzalez said.

Brion, for his part, said anymore on this issue would only complicate matters and serve as a stumbling block to the early resolution of the case.

OVERSEAS JOBS
Vice President Noli De Castro and Inquirer President Sandy Romualdez open the three-day Employment Expo sponsored by Philippine Daily Inquirer at the Mall of Asia in Pasay City on Monday. Above, some of the hundreds of applicants for foreign jobs fill up forms long before the official start of the fair. AUTHOR/INQ

Erap hits AFP over Marine officer's detention

By Norman Bordadora and Dona Z. Pazzibugan

DEPOSED PRESIDENT JOSEPH Estrada yesterday criticized the Armed Forces of the Philippines for detaining 1st Lt. Antonio Rosmundo for disobeying orders of his commanding officer Maj. Michelson Dycoco to follow Marines.

"I denounce in the strongest possible terms the ill-treatment accorded to First Lieutenant Rosmundo," Estrada said in a statement released by his lawyer Rufus Rodriguez.

Rosmundo has reportedly been confined to hard labor at the Philippine Marines compound in Taguig City since Sept. 26.

A staff officer in the Philippine Military Institute under the Marine Combat Service and Support Brigade based in Fort Bonifacio, he was charged with insubordination and disobedience to a superior officer.

"His offense[] was not distributing the [CD] but distributing his commanding officer (when he was told to stop and talking back to the officer)," said Lt. Col. Ruben Ibarra, AFP public information officer chief.

Ibarra said there was no direct review from the AFP leadership prohibiting soldiers from watching the Estrada video.

"No, however, said [the] Commander-in-Chief's commanding officer was right in banning the video.

"[The video] has political color. It's the inherent job of a commander to interdict the men from watching it because, if I were a commander, I would not let my people watch it," Ibarra said.

ARELLANO UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF NURSING

One of the oldest nursing academes in the country (established 1957) that carries a tradition of excellence in the field of nursing education.

- Produced approximately 100,000 board passers to date
- AUCN graduates consistently top the Nurse Licensure Examination

Belle Albano - 1st Place in 1973
Gloria M. Cortes - 7th Place in 1978
Gloria A. Valdez - 9th Place in 1978
Nilda P. Padilla - 7th Place in 1978
Luzminda R. Lagrimas - 6th Place in 1978
Eileen M. David - 7th Place in 1978
Nina Cheryl Obed - 1st Place in 1985
Susan B. Ciudadano - 10th Place in 1981
Ma. Luisa Peñas - 10th Place in 1982
Delores Padilla - 10th Place in 1982
Myla Panoteno - 11th Place in 1983
Anamarie Luz L. Domingo - 1st Place in 1994
Cynthia E. Vasquez - 6th Place in 1994
Ma. Esmeralda Tumbaga - 2nd Place in 1999
Franklin Barbaran - 2nd Place in 2000
Ariana La Torre - 4th Place in 2000
Myla Pineda - 4th Place in 2003
Jayallan Yu - 10th Place in 2003

BASE AND AFFILIATE HOSPITALS

Base Hospitals: The Medical City, AFP Medical Center and Dagupan Doctors Villaflor Memorial Hospital

Affiliations:
Amnesia Maternity Hospital
Angono Medics Hospital
Antipolo City Medical Hospital
Antipolo District Hospital
Bataan General Hospital
Bayan Lying-in
Cainta Health Office
Catanauan Polyclinic Center and Maternity House
Child Haus
Dr. Cecilio P. Reyes Hospital
Dr. Fe Del Mundo Medical Center
Dr. Jose Fabella Memorial Hospital
East Avenue Medical Center
Estrella-Heine Care Clinic
Estrella Neo-Care Hospital
F.Y. Manalo Memorial Polyclinic Maternity & Family Planning Center
Fort Bonifacio General Hospital
Gagan District Hospital
Gavino Alvarez Lying-in
Gonzales Medical & Children Hospital
Holy Life Multi-Specialty Clinic and Lying-in
Jaen Rural Health Unit
Jose Reyes Memorial Medical Center
Las Piñas City Health Office
Las Piñas General Hospital and Satellite Trauma Center
Lipa Medix Medical Center
Lung Center of the Philippines
Makati Health Department
Mandaluyong City Medical Center
Mandaluyong City Health Department
Manila Health Department
Manila Naval Hospital
Marikina City Health Department
Capitol Ng Makati - Acute Care
Capitol ng Tanay
Parmesa Medical Center
Pamparuga Medical Specialist Hospital
Pasig City General Hospital
PCSO Charity Clinic
Philippine Children's Medical Center
Philippine International Hospital
Philippine Orthopedic Center
Quirino Memorial Medical Center
Rizal Provincial Hospital
Rosario Specialist Hospital
Sainti General Hospital
San Antonio District Hospital
San Isidro Hospital
San Lazaro Hospital
San Jose Hospital & Trauma Center of Calamba, Inc.
San Juan Municipal Health Office
Sto. Tomas Gen. Hospital
Sta. Clara De Montefalco Medical Center
Sta. Cruz Hospital
Sta. Rosa Hospital
Sta. Rosa Community Hospital
St. Claire's Medical Center
St. John The Baptist Medical Center
St. Michael Medical Center
St. Victoria Hospital Medical Center
St. Vincent Hospital
Veterans Memorial Medical Center
Villarosa Hospital
Wet Family Medical Center

Arellano University College of Nursing
Accredited by the Philippine Association of Colleges and Universities Commission on Accreditation (PACUCOA)
- Affordable tuition fees (scholarships also offered)
- Complete and fully air-conditioned classrooms and laboratory facilities
- Review staff for all graduating students in preparation for the Board exams
- Guaranteed free job placement in the USA and around the world
- ACCELERATED NURSING PROGRAM for college graduates and professionals who want a nursing degree (2½ years subject to evaluation)

www.arellano.edu.ph
auweb@www.arellano.edu.ph

ARELLANO UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF NURSING
Main Campus
2600 Legarda St., Sampaloc, Manila
Tel. Nos. 734-7371 loc 222 or 219;
736-0849; 735-5169
Jose Abad Santos Campus
3838 Taft Ave. cor. Gil Puyat Ave., Pasay City
Tel. Nos. 512-3444; 512-3446;
833-4730; 831-6857 and 834-7187
Andres Bonifacio Campus
Pagsaa St., Caloocan, Pasay City
Tel. No. 441-0000; 443-8157
and 443-7717

2ND SEM ENROLLMENT ONGOING * OPEN ON SUNDAYS, 8:00AM - 4:00PM

Abalos assures 2006 polls will take place

By Jerome Aning

MUST YEAR'S ELECTIONS WILL push through despite the resignation of a lawyer of President Macapagal-Arroyo that the Commission on Elections might not have enough time to implement the just-to-computerization of the polls in preparation for Congress.

"Definitely there will be elections in 2007 and it will be partially automated," Comelec chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. said yesterday, disputing lawyer Romulo Macalintal's assertion the May 2007 polls might have to be postponed because the Commission was running out of time.

In the event of inability to failure to administer the voting, the Comelec could revert to the manual process, Abalos told reporters.

Abalos admitted the process of acquiring new automated voting and counting machines could take a long time, but Congress had ignored to incorporate provisions in the proposed computerization law to hasten the procurement process.

Earlier, Abalos said the Comelec was "already sure" about implementing the electronic transmission and canvassing of votes because the poll body would be done using simple technologies like scanners and mobile phones.

Macalintal, President Arroyo's election lawyer, raised the possibility that the 2007 elections might yet be held because there was no more time for the Comelec to complete its "computerization" bidding for new automated machines.

The Comelec has 1,991 automated counting machines in storage that it cannot use because the P1.3-billion deal under which the machines were purchased was voided by the Supreme Court in 2006. Under the proposed automation bill pending in Congress it would have to buy new machines.

Abalos said the proposed bill did not stop the Comelec from conducting manual elections.

"It doesn't mean we would no longer hold elections if we fail to automate," he said.

The Comelec last week began preparing for partial automated counting in selected areas in anticipation of the computerization bill that Congress approved poised to pass.

Gordon questions award of poll printing contract

By TJ Burgonio

SEN. RICHARD GORDON (YESTERday questioned the award of a printing contract by the Commission on Elections to a company owned by two incorporators of Mega Pacific eSolutions Inc., the firm whose contract to supply automated counting machines (ACMs) to the Comelec was voided by the Supreme Court in 2004.

"On the surface, I don't see anything wrong with it because it's a separate corporation," Gordon said in a phone interview with South Asia reporters from Geneva, where he is attending an international Red Cross governance conference.

"But again, if there's foolishness in the way it was conducted or the way they represented themselves, the corporate veil can be pierced and anyone again court suits to see to it that the public lawyer is not thwarted by manipulations," he said.

Gordon was reacting to reports that a firm, Multi-Prime Corp., had won the bidding conducted by the Comelec for the printing of voters' registration forms and their corresponding identification cards on Sept. 4.

It turned out that Antonio Pang, Multi-Prime president, and his son, Bernard, were also owners and stockholders of Mega Pacific, which contract to supply ACMs to the Comelec was voided by the high court for alleged irregularities in January 2006.

Gordon also urged the public to be wary of the intention of President Macapagal-Arroyo's election lawyer, Romulo Macalintal, that the May 2007 elections might not push through, saying this was part of a scheme to condition the public's mind about the inevitability of Charter change. (See related story on this page.)

"I am suspicious of any loathsome because there's an upcoming election. It appears they are handing a conspiracy to postpone the elections to give more time for Charter to prosper," he said.

Sight of smog over Metro Manila leaves GMA aghast

By Christine O. Avendaño

EXPRESSING DISMAY OVER seeing smog rising over the Sierra where she was planning golf, President Macapagal-Arroyo ordered Metropolitan Manila to step up and beautification of the country.

"Over the weekend, I played golf[,] somewhere and looking over the fence, I saw a factory emitting smoke," Mrs. Arroyo told environmentalists attending an Eco-Labeling Workshop at the Diwa Hotel in Makati yesterday.

"Oh My God! I thought we had no more smog but we still have some of them," Mrs. Arroyo said.

In her talk before workshop participants and guests that included former First Lady Amelita Ramos, who chairs the Clean and Green Foundation, the President said she realized there was need to enforce more environmental laws, "especially now, after many years in office the country now has plant during Typhoon Milenyo" last January.

The President said her administration is back on creating a "Green Philippines." The program encompasses conservation, energy independence, reforestation and designation of national parks and wildlife sanctuaries.

"We must take back our forests," she said. "We must replenish them with new protected forests to restore our land and our people."

Gloria rating rising in Ibon poll

By H. Bordadora

THE RESEARCH group conducted by the scandal-tracker Ibon Foundation continues to show an unrelentingly soaring up with dismal satisfaction ratings for President Macapagal-Arroyo around 60 this month is 13.6 percentage points lower than the Ibon Foundation's not satisfactory rating—from negative 46.7 to negative 54.8.

The Ibon Foundation that Inc.'s mid-year survey indicated that while many respondents still consider themselves poor, Filipinos are starting to feel "less hopeless."

On the President's ratings, however, most of them would likely make it to the senate, at least as of Oct. 2-12, 2006, when the survey were conducted.

Ibon said apparently dominated the top 20 senatorial choices in their survey.

Juterbe Tulfo, Ibon executive director, attributes the "slight improvement" in the President's net satisfaction rating to the "humiliation of the Philippine Maritime Education system" and "the bullying of the opposition to inhibit the mainstream campaign and the disruptions of the Senate's E.O. scandal crisis. The respondent collapse in the ratings of half of a factor," Tulfo said.

In their October survey, 22.20 percent gave the president a satisfactory grade while 67.10 percent checked dissatisfactory. This gives the 46-year-old satisfactory rating of negative 54.9 percent, an improvement of 13.6 percent from the negative 68.7 percent respondents had.

Ibon's survey was conducted among 1,481 respondents[,] drawn randomly via multistage probability sampling.

No Filipino injured in Kazakhstan riots — DFA

24TH ANNIVERSARY OFFER – EXTENDED!*

BUY 1 TAKE 1
ON DIAMOND PEEL
until October 28, 2006 only!*

Turn back the clock. Look 5 years younger. Recapture that soft, smooth, flawless skin you once had. You can with **Diamond Peel**...

- Reduce fine lines and wrinkles
- Fade acne scars, age spots and other blemishes
- Even out skin color and give it a healthy, youthful glow
- Refine pores and prevent breakouts
- Give your skin renewed elasticity and suppleness

Get back that beautiful, glowing skin with the Diamond Peel. Everyone who has tried it just can't get enough of it. Find out why. Call Facial Care NOW.

CALL 892-SKIN (7546)

facial care CENTRE

www.facialcarecentre.com.ph
MAKATI ORTIGAS TOMAS MORATO BINONDO ALABANG IMUS CONGRESSIONAL PAMPANGA (045-3484) CEBU (255-7551)

LOST AT SEA
The US Navy released this photo of four Filipino fishermen standing on their submerged fishing vessel off the coast of Pulowat on Oct. 19, 2006. They had been adrift at sea for three days without food and water before being rescued by the crew of the HSV Swift (HSV 2). An SH-60B helicopter launched from the ship assisted the submerged craft while conducting routine operations in the US Seventh Fleet area of responsibility. AP

Ban on Pinoy workers to Lebanon lifted soon

By Jerome Aning

THE GOVERNMENT MAY SOON LIFT THE ban on the deployment of Filipino workers to Lebanon, the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration chief Rosalinda Dimapilis-Baldoz announced yesterday.

Baldoz said the could happen by mid-November after the official adoption of the POEA governing board's reform package. The package provides, among others, the raising of minimum wages for domestics to $400, increasing the ages from age requirement from 21 to 25, and abolishing the payment of placement fees.

These reforms, remained to be found as before, just awaiting the signature of one of the board members representing the recruitment industry, who is currently abroad. Baldoz said Labor Secretary Arturo Brion, concurrently board chair, would fly copy the resolution for its implementation.

Baldoz, citing reports from the Bureau of Immigration, confirmed that illegally documented overseas Filipino workers have already been returning to Lebanon through backdoor "jump-off points" despite the deployment ban imposed by the Philippine government.

Undocumented OFWs, deported to Cambodia, were reportedly flown to Bangkok, Thailand. From there, the recruits boarded planes to Syria. From where they were to cross the border into Lebanon.

The ban on deployment to Lebanon was implemented following the eruption of violent clashes between the Israeli military and Hezbollah militants in southern Lebanon last July. A ceasefire brokered by the United Nations has been in effect since mid-August.

Education campaign

Baldoz yesterday kicked labor officials and recruitment industry leaders in the launching of a multi-media drive against illegal recruitment. POEA partnered with the Globe Telecom Inc. in the production of a series of television commercials, radio plugs, print ads, as well as posters and brochures, to warn prospective overseas workers against deception, exploitation and abuse by illegal recruiters.

Electronic billboards have been set up at the POEA's central office in Mandaluyong City to display the latest job vacancies, and a list of agencies under existing recruitment and deployment bans.

Baldoz said POEA will be tapping the Public Employment Services Offices of local governments for pre-employment orientation programs that will include talibols illegal recruitment practices, as well as market conditions, updates and trends.

Complaints rising

According to POEA reports, Metro Manila, Cavite and the Ilocos region, particularly La Union province, have the highest incidents of illegal recruitment in the country.

By most statistics for illegal recruitment currently exist because many cases are forwarded directly to the National Bureau of Investigation or the local police, Baldoz said.

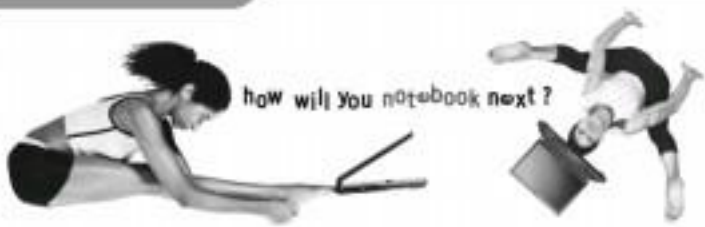
The administration, however, disclosed that among the complaints brought to POEA in Manila, there has been a 20 percent increase compared to last year's figures.

The agency handled 1,621 illegal recruitment complaints last year, 27% of which were actually filed before prosecutors' offices.

"Our priority is the prosecution aspect but we also coordinate closely with law enforcement agencies to apprehend illegal recruiters," she said.

Sadly, she noted, the prosecutions "were not successful" because the victims of illegal recruitment often withdrew their cases after their money was returned by the accused agencies, said Baldoz.

TOSHIBA



Toshiba recommends Windows® XP Professional.

Protect & Fix solutions inside out.

Toshiba EasyGuard Notebooks - powered by Intel® Centrino® Duo Mobile Technology - offer exclusive Protect & Fix abilities that prevent data loss and secure peace of mind.

TECRA stability & performance for business

TECRA A8-P5301
Model No. PTA8[illegible]
Rolling quality first for carefree mobility.
P 74,990

TECRA A6-P3411
Model No. PTA6[illegible]
Experience new level of widescreen mobile business productivity.
P 94,990

FREE! Canon iP1300 Printer

beyond freedom
www.pc.toshiba-asia.com

Talk 2 Toshiba | 24/7 toll-free call back service for warranty and technical support. SMS call us at +65 6741 7777

intel Centrino Duo Dual-core. Do more.

Correction

IN YESTERDAY'S ISSUE, a Page A4 article on "The rich gotten, see 'a good thing,' Church leader B. Vital"—submitted the case of Salvador Hall Incorporated, Jr. Inc. The group is a Protestant faction from the Congregation of the Immaculate Heart of Mary—not Society of Jesus.

Readers may send their requests to correct or of factual errors in writing to the Day Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, 5th Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Ayala Ave., Makati City, fax no. 897-8745, e-mail address: dayde@inquirer.com.ph.

Complaints about bad reporting or other error may be sent to the Editor. Send regular letters, e-mail address: editor@inquirer.com.ph or fax no. 897-87-10-45. Also, Readers Advocate, fax phone number 1-987-8888 local 8647.

The Daily Gospel

Tuesday, October 24, 2006
29th Week in Ordinary Time
Anthony-Mary Claret

1st Reading: Eph 2:12-22
Gospel: Luke 12:35-38

Jesus said to his disciples, "Be ready, dressed for service, and keep your lamps lit. Be like people waiting for their master to return from the wedding. As soon as he comes and knocks, they will open to him. Happy are those servants whom the master finds wide-awake when he comes. Truly I tell you, he will put on an apron and have them sit at table and he will come to them. Happy are those servants if he finds them awake even he comes at midnight or daybreak!"

Commentary:

We must be the first, now we are brought to Christ Jesus' life, the church community and we share in that in our baptism because Jesus is our peace with God and we are other; we are all one in the Body of Christ, reconciled, so close to God, we are saints, living built into God's temple together where God lives. Do we realize we are to be light bearing, serving, we are one, inspire on obedience and answering our Master's needs? If we are true to our baptism, then Jesus will well open, or if only he'd find us, in the ready today and ever-ready!

Clarence Hallenstein sits. Ambassador to, LP 16 Sgt. Pilipinas, Ignacio City, PP BC Box 4, Bulacan, 3000 Philippines. Phone: (02) 897-8745 (02) 897-8746. E-mail: info@inquirer.com.ph. Website: http://www.inquirer.com.ph/Clarence_Hallenstein.htm. Clarence Hallenstein serves as Ambassador to Philippines.

SENATE INQUIRY SOUGHT

Senator scores monopoly in textbook contracts

By TJ Burgonio

No need to go to the bangko for Bangkok

Fly to Thailand's capital at a special seat sale price of just ₱1,999++

Starting December 14, 2006, Cebu Pacific will fly to bargain paradise, Bangkok. Get there on-board the modern and comfortable Airbus A320 aircraft. And with the most affordable fares, every Juan can now fly to Thailand.

Book early pay less at CEBU PACIFIC AIR.COM

Destination	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ETD	ETA	Lowest Go Fares
Manila - Bangkok	5J 161	We Th Sa Su	2245	0050	₱ 2999*
Bangkok - Manila	5J 162	We Th Fr Su	0155	0530	₱ 2999*

Sale Period: October 19 to 25, 2006
Travel Period: December 14, 2006 to January 31, 2007

Last CEB 70 30 888 or visit our Cebu Pacific office or Sta Travel agent nearest you.

BASTA TURO i-MOLDEK MO!

sales@moldex.com.ph
373-1388 • 0910-8035686

SLIMMERS WORLD

GREAT BODIES. GREAT SKIN.

BUY 1 MONTH GET 1 MONTH FREE!!!

FOR ENROLLEES TODAY

TO GET YOU STARTED

NO JOINING FEES! CREDIT CARD OPTION AT 0%

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2197 Series of 2006

LOSE 16 INCHES IN 60 MINUTES AND ALL YOUR CELLULITES WITH BODY METRICS

LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP, 0% INTEREST NO MONTHLY DUES! NO JOINING FEES!

FOR CALLERS TODAY!

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2197 Series of 2006

FREE TRIAL! PERSONAL TRAINING

ALL THE LATEST AEROBICS!

SAVE TODAY! FOR FIRST 25 ENROLLEES

MESOTHERAPY

The latest technology in slimming & toning from Europe...

BUY 15 TREATMENTS GET 15 FREE!

Introducing ENDOSLIM

CALL US FITNESS & SKIN HOTLINE 536-3333 www.slimmersworld.com.ph

MOBILE NUMBER 091-SLIMMERS (7546377)

Microbes eating oil . . .

From page A1

of the oil depots in Bauhinia, Manila, will have to give up their lives in the process of cleaning up the oil.

But scientists are not worried over the microbes' supreme survival. The microbes can multiply so quickly as they gobble up the oil—at the prodigious rate of doubling their population every 20 minutes. This translates to a mind-boggling number of 7,200 times a day, according to DOST scientists.

The bacteria, scientifically known as *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, is one of four indigenous microbes (*Acinetobacter calcoaceticus*, *Bacillus subtilis* and *Bacillus licheniformis*) that can be introduced into oil spills to wipe them out in no time at all, says engineer Romeo M. Calayang, chief of the Microbiology and Genetics Division in the Industrial Technology Development Institute of the DOST.

Calayang says the microbes, which thrives in the tolerable extreme of Bauhinia, is not only a voracious oil-eater but also a prodigious reproducer.

Rice hulls as oil-soaking sponges

Professors Ernesto Lozada, Reynaldo Pamplona and Virginia Garcia of the University of the Philippines in Los Baños are proposing the use of rice hull to mop up the oil spill.

"Found on the surface of rice hull are thousands of glass-like spikes that create a micro-structure where oil is attracted to firmly attach itself to the droplet and molecular levels," they say in a paper.

The hull is hard and does not readily absorb water due to its tightly-bound cellulose and lignin (stone and lignin-like) content.

It also can float long enough to be retrieved with the skills, they say.

The proposals could not have come at a more propitious time. Over the weekend, Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz Jr., chair of Task Force Guimaras, announced that the first phase of the cleanup operation (coal liner) completed by Petron Corp.

Cruz said 130 kilometers of Guimaras shoreline affected by the oil spill had been cleared of sludge.

Debris to Mindanao factory

Two barges and a ship left Guimaras over the weekend with 2,000 metric tons of oil-stained debris in its destined to a factory in Mindanao, which will use the waste as fuel and raw materials for cement production, officials said. Last month, two barges delivered over 1,500 MT of debris.

The shipment is the 3,000 tons the amount of sludge gathered off the coast and beaches of the island province, which has been stock-piled by the oil spill triggered by the Aug. 11 sinking of the MT Solar 1. The tanker was transporting 2.1 million liters of bunker fuel owned by Petron from Bataan to Zamboanga del Sur.

Mildanes Industrial, Petron vice president for supply and operations, said the Cebu-based and Mindanao and the light cargo. Under Mandatory Director Jeff Garcia was on Friday and Saturday on a two- to three-day voyage to the school of crocodile and bat-eater Isolate. Philippines Inc. in Lopez, Misamis Oriental.

Cruz added that the next phase would involve the environmental rehabilitation plan being studied by a group of scientists, environmentalists and academics to restore the mangroves, sea grass and coral reefs in their natural state. A mixed bills controversy to finalize the plan is scheduled for late November.

Boundary pursued

The task force has created a boundary subcommittee headed by regional executive director Julian D. Amadeo of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. Amadeo has pushed for the use of indigenous materials to fight oil spills.

The US Environmental Protection Agency (US-EPA) tells the use of natural products to clean up contaminated materials in the environment is the recommendation.

"Microscopic bugs in microbes that live in soil and groundwater like to eat certain harmful chemicals. Such as those found in gasoline and oil spills," said the US-EPA in its "Citizens' Guide to Bioremediation."

"When the microbes have completely digested these chemicals, they change them into water and harmless gases like carbon dioxide," it said.

A WORKER loads bags of oil-laden soil on a barge bound for a cement factory in Mindanao. AMANDO DOROMAL JR./INQUIRER

Retrieval a complicated eng'g operation

From page A1

spider crawls with dynamic positioning (DP) systems that will allow them to remain fixed in an area above the Solar 1 by using their propellers and thrusters. Moving or anchoring is not feasible in the sea 100 meters deep, where the crippled tanker sits on the floor.

More than 1,000 ships are equipped with the DP system. They are used in the offshore oil industry in places like the North Sea, the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Mexico.

From the ROV vessel, equipment will be dropped to where the Solar 1 rests upright. Using remotely-robot and pumps, the oil will then be sucked out in the ROV vessel and then transferred to a tanker.

There will be eight separate siphoning pressures, says Rafael Gonzalbacha, ground chief of Task Force Guimaras that was formed by President Macapagal-Arroyo to respond to the oil spill triggered in the worst the country has ever experienced.

2 of 10 containers spilled

Many ish got hired by a remotely operated vehicle (ROV) sent to conduct an investigative but needs of the condition of the Solar 1 indicated that two of the 10 containers inside the tanker had spilled their contents, but the eight others appeared to be intact.

The ROV was dispatch by experts aboard the Nihon Maru, a Japanese research ship commissioned by Petron to conduct the probe to it needed be guided on the remedial steps needed to be taken next.

The retrieval operation could take a month, says Gonzalbacha, although since the equipment is in place, it could recover 260,000 liters of oil per day.

"What takes time is the actual installation of the hoses," he said. "Once that's done . . .

"First, you need to attach something waterproofed to the hull, drill in that the oil comes out. I understand you even have to bore the oil to make it more viscous to allow it to be pumped up more," Gonzalbacha says.

Coast Guard to assist

"This is a complicated engineering operation which requires the mobilization of vessels, equipment and personnel with the experience," he says.

"Multi-function alone, according to the ROPC people, will take about four to six weeks. So in the meantime that we're working for the Bond decision on who will do the siphoning, when, etc., some engineering planning is going on," Gonzalbacha says.

The Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) is sending its 50-meter vessel, says Vice Adm. Ariel Gonzagas who is preparing for a search-and-rescue mission, meaning the possibility of a second oil spill from the sunken vessel.

The Coast Guard vice commander says he will not hesitate to stop the operation when sea conditions make it too risky.

"Once the oil-leaching operation starts, the role of the Coast Guard is to see to it that no oil will spill," says Gonzagas.

He says the Coast Guard will deploy its own oil spill booms and skimmers and have dispersants on standby.

Booms and skimmers

The booms confine the oil spill to a specific area and prevent it from reaching the shoreline. Skimmers collect the black globs by separating them from the water. Chemical dispersants are sprayed on oil slicks to break them down into droplets, hasten their degradation and prevent them from reaching the coast.

"We have to see to it that we have enough vessels to use in case of an accident because while the oil is being siphoned, it can leak. We have the entire ocean, about 700 meters," he says. The oil will be held by two tankers, called *lumay* tankers, which will be dispatched from Manila.

Once any spill is contained, the Coast Guard will use the skimmers to recover the oil.

Gonzagas expects the oil in the tanker to be thick, which means the skimmers can pick it up. If any oil sheen remains that the skimmers cannot recover, the Coast Guard will use dispersants.

But Gonzagas also says the private company conducting the off-loading of oil is required to have in place its own measures, like oil spill booms, to prevent oil from leaking, and if those fail, no restraint and stop any leaked oil from spreading.

Second safety net

The Coast Guard equipment will, in effect, function as a second layer of safety precautions to ease the recovery measures of the maritime facility's owner, he added.

"Even in the regular transfer of fuel, our requirements is have an oil spill boom surround the vessel. So we have all the more reason to require it in this case because this is all loading from a sunken vessel," he says.

Three years before the private company began its work, Gonzagas says the Coast Guard will have to examine its plans, safety regulations and equipment.

He points out that when the MOL vessel conducted its survey of the Solar, the PCG had to check the details of the operation to make sure they would not do anything that could lead to environmental damage.

"It's hard not to be candid. We have to see what they would do," he says.

Ex-bureau head gets jail term

From page A1

French news agency AFP said.

Finding no conspiracy, the division acquitted Benjamin Mangudadatu—then Maguindanao Provincial Governor and Ahmad Bajao. The case against the late Municipal Bureau of Economic Development Director Ahmad Tagarao was dismissed after he died while the case was still pending.

The 67-page decision promulgated on Oct. 13 and penned by Associate Justice Teresita Leonardo-de Castro declared prosecution star witness Datu Andal Ampatuan Jr. "unworthy of credit" because of inconsistencies in his testimony that prosecutor failed to explain in court.

The 11 Ampatuan were identified as Principal Shahid Kaplan, Hook Emad Kunkun Mastura, Lieutenant Colonel Augustine Rasid, Nasipen Mastura, Mohammad Kaliputa, Jamar Ali, Abdul Hashid Ali Ibrahim, Mangudadatu Indanan, Lieutenant Kashim Kachen and Cajetan Marwan Mitmug.

Court records showed that they were arrested by NBI agents in a raid on a drug laboratory in Las Piñas City on July 6, 1994. They were subsequently charged with violation of the Dangerous Drugs Act of 1972. Under the law, manufacturing drugs is a nonbailable heinous crime punishable by death.

A month later, the Indanan filed individual requests for deportation with the Bureau of Immigration.

Records showed Bogacs and his assistant commissioners approved the deportation despite an ongoing preliminary investigation against the Indanan.

While Subido and Bajao signed the "Self-Deportation Order," the court found that the executive commissioner never was informed by Bogacs about the investigation.

The case of tahan man them added the "11 Little Indians" spotted widespread criticism of the BI and the NBI in the mid-1990s.

"But decisions should serve as a warning to government officials against the commission of graft and the long arm of the law will eventually catch up with them even after their separation from the service," said Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio.

The Ombudsman prosecuted the case.

Pag-uwi mo itay, buo na ang pamilya, buo pa ang negosyo natin.

Sarea-sarea nating buuin ang mga negosyo para sa mga OFW's.

Tara na sa
GoNegosyo para sa OFW sa Market! Market!
Sa darating na December 16 to 17, 2006, maraya nating sabihangin ang iling mga kapatid.
Handog natin ay mga negosyo, pranisa, seminars, talakayan, direct selling, alternatibong investment instruments at iban-ibang negosyo na kanilang maaaring itayo dito o sa abroad. Kaya kung may talong pang-negosyo kayo, dalhin sa at iling i-exhibit sa GoNegosyo para sa OFW!

Para sa karagdagang kaalaman tumawag sa Select Media sa 813-2612 o 813-2617 o kaya mag e-mail sa selectmedia@pldtdsl.net

Hiwalay kailangan pansarin ang GoNegosyo having Lunes sa PBN @ 10:30-11:30 PM. Ikinh repapya every Saturday at 3 to 4 PM.

NEGOSYO for OFWs

Log-in na sa www.gonegosyo.org

Get more exposure for your ad. Advertise in JobMarket Compact

Inquire about the JobMarket package at 897-8808 loc 516.

JOB COMPACT JOB Inquirer Compact available in all key cities in Luzon.

Temporary water interruption in portions of Quezon City needed to upgrade facilities and improve water distribution

Manila Water is currently upgrading its facilities and distribution network to improve the distribution of water in the East Zone. We regret that we will have to temporarily interrupt water supply in portions of Quezon City starting 10:00 p.m., Wednesday, October 25, 2006, up to 6:00 a.m., Thursday, October 26, due to a large pipe interconnection work along Mayaman corner Kalayaan. The following areas will be affected: Bgys. Sikatuna, Malaya, Central, Teachers Village and Pitahan.

Manila Water Company advises all residents of the said areas to store enough water prior to the scheduled interruptions to avoid inconveniences.

Manila Water

For the latest update, please call our Customer Call Center Hotline at 1627.

We don't just lay pipes, we improve lives.

Space donated by the Philippine Daily Inquirer

Datu seeks to preserve Moro identity on film

By Language A1

award-winning filmmaker Dickerson "Jong" Mangandadatu III told the business of his quest to preserve what he holds to be the Bangsamoro identity.

According to Mangandadatu, the Bangsamoro culture is threatened not only by what he considers media's distorted views about Muslims, but also by what he sees as the pervasive influences of Middle Eastern customs.

The 39-year-old datu noted, for instance, the growing number of Filipino Muslim women wearing the niqab, a black garment of Middle Eastern origin that completely covers the body for women only a small opening for the eyes.

"It is only proper for Muslim women to wear their bodies in modest clothes," the commissioner, who majors from Ateneo de Davao recalled recently, the belief of a student's degree in Islamic studies adding that.

"But clearly he had never been on issue with my female cousins who are comfortable wearing traditional Maguindanaon wedding fitted scarf, bangsa (blouse) and malong (wraparound). Why should it be now?" Mangandadatu said.

He lamented that many clients and friends that had survived the massacre among Moros—who "technically have positions" a modern form of Islam"—had all but faded as Moro were now considered "whatsoever" of the Muslim faith.

Feeling his childhood, Mangandadatu recounted, important elderly minor were never complete without the chika, the chanting of verses that began with evening prayers and lasted till the wee hours of the morning the song chant day-today, a popular form of entertainment on the eve of a wedding, or the celebration post-funeral rites of the kundali.

"Some continue to perform these traditions but only to a class, that the minute," he said.

Internal struggle

During the MCIA he saw or to digenous cultures, Mangandadat told the participants that "within Muslim communities, there is an internal struggle between many extreme and liberal fundamentalists."

In the interviews with the locals, he spoke of a "new tribe person Rajan" in Muslimes—Muslim scholars who, upon returning from their studies in the Middle East, "preached and applied the brand of Islam they learned abroad."

These scholars, according to Mangandadatu, were "educated during a period of heightened Islamic militancy" and emerged along with the Moro separatist movement.

"This clique fails to acknowledge that our indigenous traditions are unique to Southeast Asian Muslim nations. If we are to argue that the Moro people's right to self-determination closely to legitimacy from the existence of our own national identity, cultural traditions are part of that identity which sets us apart from the rest of the Filipino people," he said.

"There must be balance ... We can accept those new ways and be good Muslims but still retain our Malay heritage."

Through his camera lens, Mangandadatu has sought to capture on film what he believes to be the Bangsamoro identity.

The Cultural Center of the Philippines cited Mangandadatu's work, "Moros Under the Crescent Moon," as the best documentary film in the 2001 Gawad CCP awards.

The filmmaker, who keeps a day-job as a freelance writer when not shooting or doing cultural research, has since been a frequent resource person at CCP workshops.

In 2005, he earned an SCCA grant to do his next project, "Boat is Long Waters." His third work, "Ancient in the Wind," is currently on the festival circuit.

'Defender of Heritage'

The 2005 Ferdinn Times Philippines Yearbook named Mangandadatu as one of the country's "Defenders of Heritage." He was the second youngest (in a list of 70 honorees who included F. Sionil Jose, Ildefonso Santos, Edith Tolentino, Ric Abad and Ramon Obusan.

All of his three documentaries are set against the separatist tone in Mindanao.

"Crescent Moon" depicts events in the memorial house of Mangandadatu's maternal grandfather, Sultan Udtog Matalam, when it served as an evacuation center during the Ilokos administration's all-out war against the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

"Boat is Deep Waters" is about the history of Moro women "from the point of view of my 100-year-old grandmother."

MANGANDADAN: Dato Mamalam. [illegible]

"Ancient in the Wind" captures the efforts of a Moro community to rebuild its village after days of bombing destroyed its school house.

Mangandadatu's work in progress is about his late uncle, MILF founding chair Salamat Hashim. The documentary was inspired by Mangandadatu's one-on-one talk with the MILF leader after the fall of the rebel stronghold Camp Abubakar.

Blood of warriors

The blood of warriors runs in Mangandadatu's veins. Datu Udtog, whose house provided the setting for "Crescent Moon," founded the Muslim Independence Movement in 1968, the "precursor" of today's three liberation movements.

Udtog and Mangandadatu's paternal grandfather, Datu Bilal, both served in the guerrilla force called the "Bolo Battalion" during World War II.

Udtog became governor of Cotabato before the province was divided into five local governments in the 1960s. The filmmaker's father, Gutierrez Mangandadatu, served as an education undersecretary during the Ramos administration.

But unlike his elders who joined the armed struggle, the younger Mang, graduated cum laude with a degree in political science and has since been employed in media and communications work.

"Indeed, to be an artist is to live at a time of war. In my journey, I have come to realize that we (Moros) are waging a war on all fronts. There is the armed conflict, which is, perhaps, the severest sacrifice we have to pay to attain our freedom. On the other hand, a battle is being carried out on the peace negotiating table," he told a filmmakers forum in the United States.

"And there is a battle being fought on the cultural front. I consider the last battle as my own."

Manila fair showcases beauty of Islam culture

By Tina G. Santos

"DISARMERO CALL IT 'THE PEOT of the kind—cable networks bring together Muslims and non-Muslims to showcase the beauty of Islamic culture.

Organized by a group of young Muslims, the 1st International Ramadan Fair at Greenbelt 2 is for everyone. Muslim, Christian or others. Muslim, Christian or others. Muslim, Christian or others.

Dishes are also hosted to Muslim cultural presentations. "We're inviting the many visitors of halal foods. Food slaughtered or prepared in the manner prescribed by Islamic law.

Although the country has been observing the Muslim holiday Eid'l Fitr for the past few years now, many Filipinos, especially non-Muslims, still cannot relate to the significance of the event, according to Ian Bellaney, secretary general of the Young Moro Professionals Network Inc.

Virtue of patience

Eid'l Fitr, or the feast of Charity, marks the end of the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan.

President Macapagal-Arroyo has declared today a holiday throughout the country to observe Eid'l Fitr.

"Any non-Muslim: know what the celebration is all about. They're not aware of the important lessons, such as acquiring the virtue of patience, that the event represents," Bellaney said.

He stressed that the event was aimed at highlighting strong Islamic principles and the values of the Muslim community.

"It was aimed to provide a venue for the appreciation and understanding of Muslim civilization, history, economics and contemporary issues and practices," he added.

Through the fair, event organizers and participants hope to enhance the prosperity of Muslims and non-Muslims alike in the tenets of Islam.

"We are very excited to present the Ramadan in a way that people can easily understand. This is the first time that Ramadan is being be presented in an atmosphere that invites participation and encourages everyone, Muslims or non-Muslims, to observe in the experience," Bellaney said.

The fair runs until Thursday

HOLIDAY events galore at the Luneta Grandstand in Manila for prayers and [illegible]

Muslims celebrate E

Front page A1

as and for Imbac Maguindanao Gov Datu Andal Ampatuan, were the first to declare Monday a day of Eid'l Fitr prayers.

Ramadan ended at 5:15 p.m.

The regional governor made the declaration through a religious deputy, Ustadz Mohamad Farid Adia, the official muslim education undersecretary.

Abdu Latif Ustadz chose Bangsamoro TV personnel posted at all, spoke over the radio, coordinating with the government office.

Governors Wahab Akbar and Mujahidin Hamidan made similar declarations in Basilan and Lanao del Sur.

Cotabato City Mayor Muslimin Sema told Bernardo officials ended at 5:25 p.m. Sunday based on moon observations by Muslim scholars from Lanao del Sur.

Ramadan begins with the moon sighting on the ninth lunar month of the Arabic Hijra calendar and ends with the appearance of the crescent moon on the tenth month.

Aides invoked the Islamic manner of government officials in being the "imam (leader) of the people" clothed with authority to declare what is to be followed in matters pertaining to secular and religious affairs.

'Fonts of evil'

The April rites issued a statement condemning the renewed violence that had prompted a heightened review alert level following recent bombing incidents in Mindanao.

Syracuse were also delivered by Datuda Abdul-rashid Ampatuan in Bongao.

There
TI
CEBU PACIFIC AIR.COM

id'l Fitr, shun terror

Syed Syed, Mufti Jalaiin Alonto in Sulu; Adas and Ismahi Kamaruddin Ibrahi in Maguindanao; Mufti Mohamad Pulangi in Lanao Sur and Ibrahim and Calabat in the city.

In a public statement, Adas said terror was among the "worst forms of evil."

He said he had twice witnessed what suspected terrorists could cause, on June 23 in Shariff Aguak and on Oct. 26, 2002, in Cotabato City, both in Maguindanao.

In the first incident, seven people were killed while in the service, 14 died, including Mayor Saudi Ly Ampatuan, the brother of the regional governor.

Muslims also targets

The late mayor's son and namesake, now himself the mayor of a town named after his father, said it was unfortunate that people had the misimpression that Muslims generally were "not the targets of, or were spared (from) terror attacks."

"But look at what's happening in Iraq. Many of the victims of terrorism are Muslims," said Mayor Saudi Ampatuan Jr.

In their common sermons, the muftis said the Muslims' Basra code is a collective jihad (struggle) was that of maintaining "good relations...ships among humanity and with others conscious of God," according to a transcript of the sermons obtained by the Inquirer.

Agreeing on unified sermons among Muslim scholars was aimed at avoiding "misinterpretations of the Koran...is confusing to the public. With reports from Charlie C. Salinas and Joseffus Mabasa, Inquirer Mindanao

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2006

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

Time for decision

EDITORIAL

THIS WEEK THE SUPREME COURT WILL MAKE one of its most momentous decisions in the 60 years since the country regained its independence. It will rule on the people's initiative case that will decide whether there would be a change from the presidential to the parliamentary system of government.

Understandably, there is pressure from both sides from groups for and against revising the Constitution through a signature campaign to people's initiative. Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban triggered a round of public debate when he disclosed that the Court had received "some pressure," although he said it would not affect the independence of the high court.

Later, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez joined in with his two cents' worth of advice, and urged the Chief Justice to avoid social affairs parties that are present and to be wary of nosy reporters. Strange advice, this, coming from a government official who has often given his comment on almost any topic under the sun, including on those subjects whose pendency would have dictated that he should keep quiet if he could not say anything that would advance his country's and countrymen's interests.

Speaker Jose de Venecia said that the country's future depends on how the people's initiative case is resolved. President Macapagal-Arroyo also fired a parting shot, saying at the gathering of chief justices that "a change in [Philippine] politics must be accompanied by a change in our system of government."

Now that almost everybody has had his or her say, we hope that this week the interested people and groups would keep quiet and allow the Supreme Court to deliberate on the case in peace. The members of the Court are used to receiving pressure, but still, constant badgering can be irritating and disconcerting.

There has been a suggestion that the five most senior justices of the Court recuse themselves from the case. Senate Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan, who made the suggestion, said that by recusing themselves, the justices would be spared the awkward situation where the appointment of the new Chief Justice would be perceived as a reward for taking a stand in favor of the President.

We do not think there is need for this. It is presumed that the senior justices are all persons of strong character and integrity who can resist all kinds of pressures and temptations to rule in a case one way or the other.

We do not believe, either, that the mere fact that 10 of the justices are appointees of the President will affect the way they will rule on the case. Their recent record suggests that they are independent-minded, and will not be pressured to favor one group or the other. They all voted against Malacañang on Presidential Proclamation No. 1017, which placed the country under a state of national emergency; Executive Order No. 464, which barred officials from testifying in Congress without the President's approval; and the calibrated preemptive response policy which prohibited rallies without permits.

Having five (the senior justices) or 10 justices (the President's appointees) recuse themselves could affect the outcome of the voting on a case that has great implications for the future of the country. And having only five or 10 justices voting on a case of such great importance would not look good. We say, let all of the justices participate in the deliberations and the voting. The nation would benefit from their judicial wisdom and statesmanship.

The resolution of this case is the last chance to amend the Constitution and bring about a change in the system of government this year or in the near future. The option of convening Congress as a constituent assembly is already out because the Senate would certainly not want to be legislated out of existence. At this point, it is too late to call a constitutional convention. Besides, it would be expensive and it would take a long time to amend the Constitution.

Now that the smoke of the verbal battle over people's initiative is dissipating, we hope that the justices of the Supreme Court will use their very clear to making a decision that will benefit not just certain persons or groups but the nation.

Publisher **ISABEL YUPANGCO**

Editor-in-Chief **LETTY JANE MANGIAN**

Managing Editor **JOSE MA. D. NOLASCO**

Associate Editor **ARMANDO V. DOROY**

Assistant Editors for Reading **ROSARIO B. GARCIA-LAGUNZAD**

News Editor **ANTONIO T. ENDRINA JR.** • Chief News Desk Officer **NELIA B. PANGAN**

Opinion Editor **JOSELI V. ANCHETA**

Features Editor **FRANCISCO S. SALAMANCA JR.**

Sports Chief, Editor **JOSEPH EMMANUEL B.**

Editorial Consultant **ADELAIDA ENRIQUEZ**

Chief Photographer **ERNIE S. SARMIENTO**

Art Designer/Illustrator **LEONARD A. VILLANUEVA**

Asst. GM/Business Manager **PEDRO R. PAGUIO**

President **ALEJANDRO PEDRO ROMUALDEZ**

Executive Vice President **DIANE G. SUAREZ**

Senior Vice President for Sales and Marketing **EDGARDO R. MANUEL**

VP for Advertising **JUAN E. GUANIO**

VP for Circulation **JESUS JESUS B. TAY**

Readers' Advocate **LORNA KALAW-TAN**

All rights reserved. Except as permitted by law, no copy of the Philippine Daily Inquirer may be reproduced or distributed in any form or by any means without the prior written permission of the publisher.

CHA-CHA
CHA-CHA-CHA
CHA-CHA-CHA
CHA-

Another reason to shift to parliamentary

SOME CELEBRITY BIG CHEESES OPPOSE the scheme yesterday that "none if the Ilos who subscribe fall to meddle their dictates" a unicameral parliament headed by Joe de V," the Senate is already in danger of being "severally abolished." This is because, he argued, seven senators indicate that the undoctrinal senatory will treat substance could be edged out by personalities with showbiz connections or celebrity status. He cited the case of Sen. Joker Arroyo, the last of the formula impeachment trial and the defenders of a number of constitutional issues. Arroyo, he argued, can't be supposed to be the danger of being nudged out of the senators' circle in the 2007 election by showbiz people and other popular names. (Lacson and Arroyo's poor showing in the recent Pulse Asia survey could be the reason he's thinking of not seeking a second term.

• • •

I had heard this rumor about Arroyo earlier, which is indeed sad, that it had become his particular shtick to "educate" the public by having trapos shambles, where committee hearings are dispelled, in a very expensive preparation, not to mention the fact that it makes lawmaking a spectator sport. And that's why there is hardly any country's aspiration to become a domestic, competitive and modern nation.

• • •

On the other hand, we need the hearings in order to find out what is wrong with the system. The person is that bills passed by the House are of poorer quality because they are enacted faster. Conversely, because senators take forever to deliberate on them, there are aspersions. I think Senate president would challenge this criticism. I can think of a number of Senate reports, such as the Fishing Boats Agreement, that turned out quite full of loopholes. The Senate has also set on its own two bills that rejected bills to modernize and reform the economy.

Never say needs to a highly competitive global

Political Tidbits

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

ago, legislative incentive-duty cannot be enabled at equity at all. What is obvious to that there are good and competent men and women in both chambers, who should be elected to constitutional legislative chart's expanded to constitutionally separate the powers into classes. These MPs should respond to the legislative challenge in lift this country from poor Third World status to Second World in perhaps a decade. But this won't happen if we retain our two purposely gridlocked chambers.

• • •

The Supreme Court ruling on the validity of people's initiative is unveiled by the entire debate with limited breadth. All we ask the high court now is to give the Filipino people the chance to vote or reject the parliamentary set up in a plebiscite. The issue is: do we want a system that will usher the country to modernity and progress through the parliamentary-cum-federal system, or do we prefer the discredited presidential/bicameral system that hasn't work in the past 60 years? Let the people decide.

• • •

Cecile Alvarez and I recently raped two dolls' house which deals with the Philippine General Hospital's one hop centennial celebration that began last Aug. 17. In one segment, we invited Ms. Rita Villaviencio Gatchalian, a UPW graduate of the UP College of Nursing and PGH's deputy director for nursing services. We asked her to give us an overview of the nursing profession and current problems, including the leak to the brain-drain. Some of the data she gave us: Of the 20,000 physicians of RP, women to do late 1970s in the Middle East, followed by a big demand from the United Kingdom. She said there's a cycle that last 10 years, but the really big hinge began in the first few years of the century, when 20 hospitals started offering immigrant visas to foreign nurses, resulting in their unprecedented mass migration. This, in turn, was met by an upsurge in the number of nursing schools—1,000 to 2,000 in more than 400 years.

The problem, Irma stressed, is that nursing salaries managers began disappearing, and this affected the profession materially as nurses don't work in offices; they need to be on the clinical floors for the entire last Aug. 19 interest, of course, is the ever-growing salary gap between First World nurses and those in the country, only $7,000 gross. To deal with the high mortality rate and to ensure that the graduates continue to patronize them, a few select graduate training centers began completing with some nursing schools in the Middle East, Singapore and Brunei.

Tarzan stressed that RP nurses are highly valued all over the world, but it's important to show to the world, too, that we don't tolerate based on anachronisms.

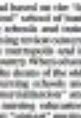
• • •

He asked her what can be done to retain our nurses. And she said that while it's difficult to fight the huge incomes they earn abroad, nurses are experiencing a lot more job satisfaction here. For instance, there could be more development seminars for nursing practitioners, which could give them the feeling that "the industry is also investing in me." She pointed out that competency building programs have been a pillar of the PGH nursing services. These include a six-month program in clinical nursing, a traineeship program in research for nurses at the doctoral level, and clinical observership for allied groups, and clinical observership for nursing nurses, to exchange ideas.

Dreams and commerce

At Large

Rina Jimenez-David



I DON'T KNOW IF THE APPLES ONLY TO THE Philippines, but educational trends here are actually dictated, not by employment and market demands in the country, but by market demands abroad, specifically the United States, which is by far and large most populous of the 191 and other "developed" countries.

In my mind, all of the classes this semester—from Grade 1 to Grade 6—are geared to the dream land more than as true cure of her daughters become a nurse, engineer, earn dollars and send home the money. Even lawyer would be if one of us would earn a coveted "green card" and send home the money. I would bet even Lolo of tearful waiting in the US.

The salary demand for nurses abroad, demand for other types of workers trained up, physical therapists, caregivers, and eventually, teachers. Such spikes in demands for specific occupations were due by corresponding spikes in enrollment in courses that lead to those jobs abroad. The problem arises when trained dependents in the middle of a new year or from one course when the actual skilled demand-end, they were suddenly redundant and unemployable. Worse than the hassle to students and their parents banking on overnight success—it was all a gamble.

• • •

THESE days, young people and their parents are banking on a nursing degree and passing the board exams are again as a surefire way of obtaining a high-paying job abroad. With high demand translated into accommodating policies—nursing as a career is in the US and the rest of the developed world has become a viable option again.

In your Pinoy fashion, and based on the "do more match and less precision" school of business development, nursing schools and training hospitals, alongside nursing review centers, immediately geared all efforts to meet the overwhelming demand for nurses, especially in the US, abroad. Nursing schools mushroomed in the provinces and in urban centers around the country. When education authorities, including the deans of the old-at and most established nursing schools and training hospitals, tried to impose some order in the "falling standards" of nursing education, they were unable to the many "upstart" nursing centers, which drain our graduates who are better only minimal and sub-standard training.

And there, we must remember that these centers are the minimum requirements of nursing employment—growing a passing grade in the nursing board exams—the schools send them to review centers to improve their chances of passing themselves or are affiliated with, and become a review center's reputation turn on the number of passers. It manages to synthesize, these centers seem to all means but to find in review results.

THAT those who pass the board exams relying on trained questions and cram-nursing would end up as incompetent nurses who perform a threat to the lives and health of patients should be of little concern to such nursing "educators."

Even worse, the pressure to increase the number of passers among their graduates has led to schools and centers accepting the very poorest applicants in order to get the cream of the crop. The applicants, the school, the graduates, the knowledgeable finds the question.

In an earlier interview, Professional Regulation Commission Chairman Leonardo Quisumbing alluded at talk that the results of the nursing board exams is the indicators of the quality of nursing education in the country. "The test only measures when a nursing graduate knows in that particular time. The quality of a graduate's education depends on the knowledge and skills imparted by the educational system."

But it is puzzling the licensure exam that results for a nurse's basic competency which is why teachers and reviewers resort to short-cuts and to the detriment of the students.

It seems urgent now for Commission on Higher Education is preparing a new regulation that would make sure that a review center which has been involved in a "mass failure" would no longer be able to do business. The regulation has been in effect for the last three review centers implemented by the National Bureau of Investigation in the fallout.

• • •

BUT nursing against review centers involved in the scandal should be just the first step in a review of issues to retain existing education in the country's entire previous causes of irresponsibility.

How many more of these mass failures look, as into officials of CHEd resigned after their calling against non-performing nursing schools (schools which have failed to produce board passers in the past three years) and the head of the said the action of the CHEd chair was due to politicking and influence-peddling of a prominent supporter of the President, who wants a chain of colleges, including a network of nursing schools.

The problem bedevilling nursing education and training have risen, is not just a matter of keeping the licensure exam above board and free of manipulation. The problem is that nursing schools themselves are held to the highest standards of training, and that regulatory bodies, like the CHEd, are allowed to implement policies without politics interference.

There's little we can do about parents' dreams for their children, or students' dreams about filling their families out of poverty. We wish they were motivated by other reasons, but at the end's least they aren't totally wrong. Nursing is a good education in exchange for their valuable nurses seems.

Frozen delights

WHAT PLACE IS HOT A PLANET? I HAVE LIVED MY ENTIRE life believing that it was us. Now, my top-level liberals not being able to "bear to neighborhood around to orbit" has dislodged it from the outside elite. And just like that, Pluto, the coldest planet, has become just another celestial object, significant still but not as special as it used to be.

And, boy, is that how this really is? Doesn't anything really last anymore?

What happened to Pluto reminds me of Frozen delights. I'd use this as my theme this is how my cream, with a lot of flavors in theme from. There are the regular fruits and chocolates mind and the specialties each term. If you're the all-natural type, then pistachio ice cream is for you. Its orange added, fat-free, real thing, was everything you want. You can even have seconds and unimaginable flavors, too. Ever heard of a new York Parquet Ripple?

It's all a matter of what appeals to your palate. You choose your flavor, then you either have your fill in your stirring or use it for by 36, me by me, one marshmallow at a time. If there's any left, you put it back in the fridge, and let it freeze. But when you take it out again, it wouldn't taste exactly the same way when you first tasted it. If you choose to remember everything at one time, you might get somewhat overwhelmed and brain-freeze. So, you let its remembrance and melt.

Life's like that. But long ago. You cannot hold on to something or someone regardless of how much it tells you or the need self-concerned fascination. Sure, you have a field day thinking of all the possibilities and what-nots. But it all boils down to taking everything as it comes and then letting go. You cannot hold on for long. Ice cream melts, life goes by for certain forces, life rounds still. But does it really?

There's a strange scene from Interview where you really want and then the magic will begin to happen. I have a friend who left the stable job for something he loved more, basketball. If you're a pragmatist, you'll ask, why, why, why? But I'm not. My friend is exactly where his mom is to be, he knew what he's doing and he's good at it. The magic begins. That's his ice cream flavor.

Somebody wise told me that it's better to take the plunge and risk a lot than never to try at all and be trapped in your own world of regret. Being on the side side is like freezing your ice cream for a long time. Like a polar bear. Its fabrication. It's everything you're not. When you chose it's time to open it out. It may be too late. If you're lucky enough, you'll find it better tasting. But most often, it will be more cold and bland.

I have had my share of what. If moments....chances I passed up, not having time to what I really felt, times that I blew advantages that I should've taken, and I've learned that the best response is a non-response proposition....If you live in Pluto, that is. Your heat loops. I guess, is that life will give you a second chance to make things better. But if that doesn't happen, you just have to let it go. Still a tough cookie never shakes the inner sweetness center.

Sometimes, it's not how the wrong flavor or maybe you're in your set, but too long. Pralines and orchards some and you final yourself wanting more. Or as it seems. But if you really think about it, pains and disappointments make you more real. We suddenly find answers to questions you've been shelling for years, you get to know who, when, and, you know, you learn; you let go, you move on; and claim you love again. Until finally you find your favorite. Then, you realize you have to savor everything to know what it is you really want.

Once you know your ice cream flavor, you'll always come back for it. It would be nonetheless. Then you can have the real. Sure, it may seem anachronistic to have the same place over and over again, but it's just one true thing, and it's all yours. It isn't time squandered after all.

The unexpected happens even that I have often wished to see a dooming star. I am fascinated by them. I used to dwell in many constellations, but I've always had a thing for Andromeda. I spend many long minutes just staring out into the sky wanting for them. I couldn't care less what others think about it. I'm a shooting star junkie. But as they say, the more you chase it, the more it eludes you.

That's true, too, it wasn't the time when an orbit finishes full on my head. It was that one special night when it darted through the sky. And it faded away as quickly as it came. The ending is, I finally had that moment, and it was perfect. What you've been wanting for all your life. It doesn't have it, yet you have a memory of it. If ice cream tastes, then taste. Ing that. Or you can just simply remember and savor.

I'm into dessert ice cream. On a good day, give me ice cream anytime. I guess it's never too late to learn that life can be as fun, sweet and simple as that. Living a learning what you want, not letting the moment pass you by, and making things happen.

Thinking cream, indeed. But, if you're brave enough to take the risk for something that is for keeps, what you have is worth holding on to. It's your sugar zone. And surely that one won't melt.

Rene J. Azarraga, 28, is a financial analyst in a global manufacturing firm.

Young Blood

Raven J. Azarraga

We seem to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? Are welcome contributions from the newspapermaking and fellow.... Ed.

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

Send your contributions by e-mail to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address, age and the school, company or organization you belong to, if employed, the position you're holding and the subjects you want to write. Contributions to Youngblood should not have been previously published.

Why quibble over definitions?

Commentary

Raman Y. Ocampo

DISSOLVING ALL THE LEGAL ARGUMENTS about the difference between amendments and revisions are more substantive issues that need to be given priority in a real constituency on our legal minds that such a big issue to bring aside out of a discussion which even Manila's legal luminaries does not make, a distraction that belies the plain meaning of what the Constitution says.

The real issue is our underlying principle of a people's sovereignty, which the Constitution entrusts to the people and all government authority emanates from them. It is a principle which, in my view, transcends even the freedom of speech. If people are sovereign, then all governance authority even that ostensibly which sits as the final arbiter of the plain meaning of the Constitution, the Supreme Court, must respect that sovereignty.

This is a question of whether the majority of the people on this matter ought to have final say or not—not on how that issue is to be resolved but that petitions to amend the Constitution can be brought before them without resort to obtuse legal maneuvering. Some of us like the idea that the majority may be wrong, but believe it, but in their minds, that nation will be in great trouble if the majority will prevails and they point to Joseph Estrada as one prime example. Respecting the people's sovereignty also means that we must trust them to be smart and well-informed enough to make these decisions.

Of course, the idea behind democracy is that no one knows permanent hold on questions of authority with, not the consent of the governed. Governments rule only through elections that are hopefully free and clean. It underlies our choice of a representative, democratic form of government as the basis by which the nation is to govern itself and not people that live on islands in other, impenetrable geographic masses is even more willing because of the great many of our educational talents and economic aid to people both upon their leaders for guidance as many of these

issues are beyond their ken. And in consultation with their local leaders, they have signed the petition.

I suppose one could make the argument that a democratic, representative form of government that suppresses the rule of the majority is nothing but Machiavellian thinking. That concept was dressed up in theories during a time and a reason that was unique and it sprang from the American people's own experience of being ruthless during persecutions, abuses and lack of opportunities. In fact, representative democracy emanating from a people's sovereignty is a concept that is by its very definition inefficient, because true democracy simply that is it will the best and most effective form of government for its unqualified support of human dignity and rights and the need for the consent of the governed. That is why despite the generally evolutionary nature of the 1987 Constitution, this sovereignty is particularly recognized and the means by which it is to be expressed, laid out, for, whatever the spirit of the Constitution may be, nothing in the people who unite partially and for the most part directly understood both as content and as meaning.

The Constitution also did not stumble from the "people" even if the previous that terror it were just a matter of the "people" as interpreted by Justice Cory Aquino and the results achieved back then angry insisted the blatant dictatorship and their reaction to the events that provoked her takeover as a "revolutionary" government. It is subsequently ratified by the government. This year on the same plane the advocates of today which are the select the constitutional commission whose members were appointed by Gloria Macapagal Arroyo.

Then, I found it odd that a justice of the Supreme Court sought to establish this issue people politically signed the petition without understanding what they signed, especially when there is still a sustained period of campaign and the eventual submission. This kind of argument is a bit like the argument resorted to before he was willing to overrun the "law" of this nation so people he did not know running they probably signed something they did not understand. But this is the of my perspective—over the distribution of sovereignty.

The framers of our Constitution must have realized that to establish a set bodies either signing a petition or casting votes is to fail to understand what a people's sovereignty is and how it is to be safe by the rules. But probably it was as old-fair for the justice, because the Supreme Court has in the past relied decisively on petitions signed by the people, such as recall petitions, that the only way to determine the people's sovereign will was by recall election by a Commission on Elections officer that this officer had verified the signatures with the list of registered voters in a precinct deemed fit.

It is also foolish to think that the signatures for legislative needed to cover all of the people to obtain the Constitution's deadly negative only for majorities of 12 percent of the registered voters and 3 percent from each legislative district.

It is true that the petitioners have also withdrawn and are just legal luminaries will prevail as the justices consider these weighty matters? Will their judgments reflect the common meaning of the Constitution's plain words?

Time will tell, but I suspect no one is making bets. It is just a sign of the times. Be too many people are not interested in this especially in bad times. Not optimistic about the future, but one can, while definitely not running away, be a bad fad.

Raman Y. Ocampo is the CEO of the Orient group of companies.

They Said

Failing system

"Yes and the architect who fail. It's not the mistake of the architect that fails. It's the system that fails the architect."

—Ed Reed Kerr, 2005 Richtown training director

Surviving Marcos

"I have survived 20 years of relentless persecution. The truth has prevailed."

—Imelda Marcos on her acquittal in one of several graft cases filed against her

The INQUIRER is a member of the PHILIPPINE PRESS INSTITUTE
The National Association of Philippine Newspapers

UNFINISHED BUSINESS- Pointing over the sludge drain on a breakwater at Barangay La Paz, Nueva Valencia.

'Cleanup' of oil spill poses more health hazards

THIS IS IN REFERENCE TO THE NEWS item on the admission of Petron workers that they were given instructions to just cover the traces of MT Solar 1 oil spill on Guimaras island. (INR, 10/17/06)

I was in Unidasan late August and saw with my own eyes what the workers exposed. When I visited Barangay La Paz, Nueva Valencia, for example, I noticed that something was wrong with the way the shore looked then: the stretch near the water was black with sludge, while the inner stretch was white with sand. When I dug a few inches into the white sand, I uncovered black sludge underneath. Even the black oil stain on the breakwater was painted over.

Worst, in the island barangay of Guimaras, Nueva Valencia, recovered oil sludge and contaminated debris were dumped and buried in an uninhabitated farm land near the shore.

It is deplorable that those who were responsible for the oil spill...an accident they claimed—would have no qualms about exposing the affected communities to more health hazards by repeatedly sweeping the contamination under the rug, so to speak. We wonder what could happen should the affected areas be finally declared clean after this sweep-the-dirt-under-the-rug method of cleanup.

Where is justice here? After the arrest, the matter ends there. Our Constitution, an attempt is apparently being made to fool them.

Petron must face up to their responsibility by doing a thorough cleanup of the oil spill.

—REY PASCUAL coordinator, Bancards & Public Information, Citizens' Disaster Response Center, West Triangle Homes, Quezon City

If you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Reader's Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Pasong and Makati-Arroyo, City of Makati; or send a fax to (fax: 897-4793; 897-4794; or e-mail readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph.

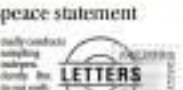
Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

Lafayette twisted Greenpeace statement

IN HIS LETTER TO THE EDITOR (PDI, 10/17/06), Lafayette's Bayani Agabin took exception to a statement that we did not make. We wish to correct this, and other factual errors he made, which we feel reveal much about the kind of laxity existing Lafayette employs to discharge the public from the real risks of their accountability in environmental disasters. The fact is, until now, Lafayette has not addressed the issue of fish kills in the island—instead, every time a fish kill occurs, it cries "sabotage" or "hoax."

Agabin claimed that in our letter, "Instead of appealing in favor of Lafayette" (PDI, 9/15/06), we said that Lafayette accused Greenpeace of "pouring huge amounts of pesticide into a creek." We ask Agabin to read our letter again. It never referred to any Lafayette statement, nor did we say that Lafayette is to be believed in a press release issued by Interior Gen. Ernie Lee, which we said contained misinformation and outrageous allegations against Greenpeace. Strangely, Agabin repeatedly referred to Greenpeace's presentation as "laboratory."

He also suggested that after we took water samples in Bago-Bago creeks, it took no only a few hours to come up with our findings on those samples and inform the media. Again, we refer Agabin to our actual our statement. The water samples were taken on Aug. 2—or 22 days before the findings were made public on Aug. 24. In fact, Greenpeace took the samples in the company of Lafayette security and community members. Greenpeace not-



nally conducts sampling indepen- dently. But its actual sampling indepen- dent visit to the island last July 26, one of our activities, while taking water samples, was featured, held at gun point, detained, and questioned by undisclosed security personnel outside the same premises.

Our findings on the water samples showed levels of cadmium, copper and zinc that were more than a hundred times higher than the normal levels in river water.

Agabin also claimed in his letter that Lafayette intends to initiate programs to give back to the community. The truth is, as long as mining operations continue in the island, nothing can compensate for the permanent loss of resources, ruined economic opportunities, collateral damage to food livelihood and marine life, as well as for the threats to human life and safety that the island, its environment and its people still have to bear with.

The mine is a disaster waiting to happen—aside from the acid mine drainage that is already flowing from the mine's tailings dam, a fault line and faults a stone's throw away. Where the next disaster occurs, will Lafayette face the issues or cry "sabotage" yet again?

—HON. BAGUMON, Greenpeace Southeast Asia

Rule of law violated in cases vs Marcoses

AS REPORTED BY ROMAN ROBLES (PDI, 10/19/06), the Sandiganbayan acquitted and dismissed are now being charged for crimes allegedly committed by the late President Ferdinand Marcos.

In 1987, democracy was supposedly restored with the ratification of a new Constitution. But the constitutional right of Marcos as an accused to defend himself before a court of justice was never recognized. He could have been called back home from his forced exile to answer all allegations against him. But he refused

due to security reasons (for natural death) of advanced age and ill health. Despite his numerous appeals for a legal backdoor, the government wanted for him to die. And as the widow and the orphans are now being charged for his alleged crimes... by administration.

This is how democracy is practiced in the Philippines where the Constitution and the rule of law are ordinarily abused by the powers that be to the prejudice of the sovereign people and the nation.

—ROLEN FORTUNATO, ABAP (Ret.), forfortunato@yahoo.com

10 suggestions to save GMA from erupting social volcano

PHILIPPINE SOCIETY IS SITTING ON A social volcano. Cardinal Sandoval's Pastoral in his DWIY interview last September, said that 60 percent of the Filipinos are sulking in the quagmire of poverty. The killing of those who oppose the President increases the amount of social magma, which surely will cause the eruption.

Currently, there are rumors about the resignation of some Cabinet members. The IBDP has questioned the cash-money in the peace process. There is an agitation in the Senate because it is treated like a doormat by the administration. Neighbor-ing Thailand ousted Thaksin (billionaire), then power-mad junta, in a peaceful coup. Flowers and garlands were offered to the military. The justifications for the coup was unbridled corruption.

The President faced with a crumbling social structure should think loyalty and integrity. What should be her actual moves?

At no other time, there is a direst **medicine to cure a malignant ailment.** The President should swallow the bitter pill. Short of resigning, she has to embrace radical reforms.

If only the President's stint pet is read this, the energies of the Filipinos are humbly suggested: (1) Increase the daily wage of all workers. A P300 increase may assuage the growing discontent among workers; (2) Apologize for the inaction of the administration on the killing of members of the political opposition. Make an independent commission to investigate the killings. Have it should be composed of foreign (Asian) observers and NGO members. It should not include government officials. It should not be headed by Justice Jose Melo who is her hatchetman; (3) Fully subsidize the agricultural sector. For example, give a subsidy equivalent to the difference between the amount of social magma, which surely will cause the explosion

Across the NATION

PTA demolishes Boracay structures

By Jerome Aning

THE PHILIPPINE TOURISM AUTHORITY HAS started clearing operations at the world-famous Boracay Island over the weekend following President Macapagal-Arroyo's order to remove illegal structures from the island and to beautify the beach's white sand shores.

PTA general manager Robert Boreo Borlongan said the task force he created found that 69 establishments had illegal structures that were encroaching on the "no-build zone" delineated by the municipal government of Malay, which has political jurisdiction over Boracay.

Some of the establishments, Borlongan said, constituted permanent structures despite being granted only temporary permits that clearly stipulated the use of light materials. Others have also exceeded their building areas and access the water line.

According to him, the area to be cleared covers 25 meters from established markers and this encompasses the "no-build zone" declared in Malay Municipal Ordinances 99-97 and 2001-131.

The ordinances were issued as early as 1996. It's been a long time coming and we more upheld the rule of law [which says that] that all structures within the 'no-build zone' must be set back 25 meters and that this designated area must be cleared," the tourism official said.

Aklan Rep. Teodorico Miraflores, Malay Mayor Cezron Cawaling and representatives from the provincial government of Aklan witnessed the start of the demolition on the weekend.

The PTA chief said the clearing operations were welcomed by other resort owners, as well as foreign tourists who complained about the ongoing building shambles.

But he noted that the continuing influx of tourists has led many resorts and other firms to encroach on the shoreline. Prior to the clearing operations, the beach front has been littered with structures used as stockyards for construction waste and debris.

With the unhampered view of the beach restored by the demolition of the "no-build zone," Boracay's natural beauty would now be maintained, he added.

Asked about the status of PTA's controversial unified room supply and beverage plan for the island, Boreo replied, "We are appealing to the conclusion of the owners of the establishments to stop using ground water and have connected to the sewerage system of the Boracay Tourism Island Beverage System."

Boreo said PTA started a big billboard at the municipal plaza listing violators, including those who refused to subscribe to the BIWSI.

BIWSI supplies water to Boracay's resorts, residences and other institutions and manages the island's drainage system.

Boracay remains a magnet for foreign and domestic tourists with arrivals increasing by more than 15 percent yearly, generating almost P10 billion in receipts for establishments on the island.

Another airline to operate in Clark airport as talks go on

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—Top executives of the Philippine Airlines and officials of the clark-owned Clark International Airport Corp. have started talks on the prospect of the country's flag carrier to operate at the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport here.

"We are in discussion with the top management of PAL. There are some about the services there will start, the size of the area they need. At this point, they are the generalities of Clark," CIAC president Victor Jose Lucino said in a phone interview on Monday.

In the interview made at midnight, which began this month, Lucinao said PAL give no plan in leaving its hub at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport in Pasay City.

It is now United States military airport, the 2,500-hectare CIAC is the biggest international gateway to the Philippines.

Lucinao listed the development in the consultations with PAL in the Aquino Civil-Armed Force Terminal for Movement (PGBH) 1,000-feet runway for the full development of the CIAC.

The PGBH initiated the local campaign against the violation of the Philippine International Air Terminal Co., where at least two provisions prohibited the construction of an industrial land perimeter restricted to 1,000 meters until a 10-million passenger operator was met at the hub.

In a statement on Monday, PGBH Chair Rogero Cruz said, "We need the Pag-asa to be flexible in this regard. We should not be truly developed into operational international passenger terminal unless PAL flies here. If Mabuhay is indeed success in its plan to make DMIA an alternate airport to Manila, then this is the right time that it should prompt Lucio Tan to move his planes here."

Cruz and CIAC officials should not settle for a P1-billion budget if they were serious at using the DMIA immediately relieve Ninoy Aquino, Inquirer Central Luzon

QUIET PLAYGROUND
A child rests from play in the Tarsa Cemetery in Iloilo City, a time the playground of children from the area.

Ash from Bulusan blankets 4 villages in Irosin

SORSOGON CITY—FOUR VILLAGES in Irosin were blanketed by ash emitted by Bulusan volcano during an explosion yesterday morning, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) said.

Field investigators showed that light ash fells, measured at 0.5 mm thick, were experienced at Barangays Magallon and Tinampay and more at Barangays Galang-galang and Cogon in Irosin.

The Phivolcs Institute yesterday morning showed that the brownish ash column, which initial southeast and southwest, was recorded at 1,500 meters.

It added that the activity, which lasted for 3 minutes and 45 seconds, was followed in its instruments as a small explosion signal.

The ash explosion was the second this month.

Renato Solidum, Phivolcs director, said the volcano was observing signs of abnormal activity but that there was no need to enter its alert status, which was at the lowest level.

But residents have been warned to stay away from a four-kilometer "permanent danger zone" around the 1,560-meter volcano.

Areas beyond four near the danger zone, especially near river channels, should be monitored only because these areas are susceptible to potentially life-threatening volcanic lahars, he added.

The last time Bulusan blasted a thick column of ash was on Oct. 18, after nearly four months of relative calm.

It is one of 22 active volcanoes in the Philippines, which lies in the Pacific Ocean's "Ring of Fire," where volcanic activity and earthquakes are common.

Residents have been observing signs of unrest were coming back to life in March. It also belched ash in June.

The Phivolcs Institute said the sulfur dioxide (SO2) emission rate measured yesterday was 710 tons per day, which is above the normal rate of 500 tons per day.

Since it last erupted, it has been recording an volcanic earthquakes, Phivolcs added.

On Thursday (Oct. 19), a minor ash eruption was also recorded at 8:44 p.m. volcanic traces of ash deposits were observed in Manoc-Manoc, Bulusan galang and Cogon within 0.5 mm thick of ash deposit was measured at Barangay Tinampay.

It was also considered as a small explosion quake, which lasted for 2 minutes. Bobby Q. Lobrabo, Inquirer Southern Luzon

Mining dam collapse feared after quakes

BOAC, MARINDUQUE—IN THE aftermath of the series of earthquakes hit in the Southern Tagalog region, a provincial executive called volcanoes on the possible collapse of the Marcopper dams that would be disastrous for this town and Negros.

Provincial Board Member Alexander Reyes has requested Gov. Carmencita Reyes to immediately convene the provincial disaster coordinating council to consider the dams as he believes the province is unprepared for any disaster in case these dams would be damaged by an earthquake.

"Important alert systems were installed along the river banks and surrounding areas of the dams but these will be helpful only during heavy rains," said Representative who is also chair of the Provincial Board's committee on public order and safety.

But he recommend that should there be a breach of the dams due to an earthquake the alert systems would be useless.

"During the rainy season, the people of Boac and Mogpog evacuate day and night. But the recent earthquakes gave us more things to worry about. We all know that those dams are disasters of unimaginable magnitude waiting to happen," Reyes added.

He suggested that the Marcopper Mining Corp. be made to immediately repair the dams.

The Marinduque Iron and the Bilgaden public Initiative Dam are among the mine tailings dams that were identified to be in "imminent danger of collapsing" by the United States Geological Service that require immediate repair.

"At the moment, the only preventive measure that we can think of is to drain the water inside the dams," Representative said.

The Marinduque Dam is currently carrying 34 million cubic meters of water and silt while the Bilgaden pulls Dam carries 23 million cubic meters of water and silt. Carmelo Ilano Quevedo, Inquirer Southern Luzon

Army says No. 2 NPA man in Albay captured

TABACO CITY—AN ALLEGED top ranking official of the New People's Army in Albay was arrested by the Philippine Army's Military Intelligence Group and the local police downtown here Sunday at 10:40 a.m.

Gregorio Gerilla, 37, aka "Ka Bayid" and "Ka Bong" with his wife Agnes Camacho and a companion identified as Jellyn Bebadre were along with the military and police officers after a search warrant for their house in Sitio Studio, a photography center, along Tomas Cubiles Street.

According to MIG research, Gerilla is the No. 2 man of the Sorsogon Provincial Front under the Armando Pinalo and "Ka Bong" and "Ka Bayid" which operates in the towns of Bulusan, Irosi, Matnog, Bacon, Bacon, Sitio City and parts of Sorsogon, all in Albay.

Col. Lt. Ryan Chavez, MIG team leader, immediately coordinated with the local police here after his unit spotted Gerilla inside the department store.

WHILE militant leftists protest continued political killings, a group of anti-communist activists rally in Pamplona against alleged NPA terror.

Chavez said that when the policemen arrived at the store, Gerilla and companion were able to proceed to the photo studio.

He added that when the MIG leader went out of the studio he was served the warrants of arrest for murder issued by Iriga regional trial court in Albay.

In the investigation of the police headquarters here, Gerilla said he was buying cloves for his child who was about to be baptized Tuesday in Barangay Mourocoung, Tiwi, Albay.

Recovered from him were a .45 pistol and a hand grenade while another hand grenade was recovered from his wife.

Other recovered items were a cell phone with camera, P10,000 in cash, grocery items and a Honda motorcycle with license plate FT24478.

Aside from the two murder cases filed against him, Gerilla was tagged as suspect in the killing of Jerry Bonanzan on Feb. 1; Luis Bonanzan, Efren Cupal, all of Oldaycamora, Tiwi; Angelito Jacob Cupal or Ogot, Mariano, and Alfredo Bonanzan of Bonga, or in this city, added the report of military intelligence operatives.

Gerilla and wife were brought to the 902nd Infantry Brigade at Camp Gen. Simeon Ola for the tactical interrogation while Bebadre was detained at the police station.

Later, Noel Belmonte, an employee of the Department of Public Works and Highways in Bicol came to the police station to claim the motorcycle recovered from Gerilla. Job B. Rubio, Inquirer Southern Luzon

Mayor orders arrest of electric linemen

SUBIC, ZAMBALES—THE mayor here ordered the police to detain personnel of the local electric cooperative following complaints from customers whose meter connections were cut off by illegitimate.

Mayor Ding Barreto issued the order as he called on officials of the Zambales Electric Cooperative, Inc. to show cause why they should not be charged before the courts of "Typhoon Milagros."

Initially, officials of Sonesa 2, which covers the towns of Subic, Bonsol, Plaza Cristina, Barangay City, Polaris Diaz and Barrelona, imposed a fee payment, no reconnection policy.

The pronouncement of local officials led Ipsoc, Rural Inc., however, prompted a change of heart among cooperative executives after allegedly they were ordered by the mayor to be reconnected.

This, however, compounded the problem as the linemen were found to have become selective as to whom they would reconnection.

Despite the new policy, the linemen still disconnected the power lines of consumers in the guise of cleaning before restoration of service.

This development prompted the Subic mayor to order the arrest of the linemen involved in the disconnection.

Divina Dina, chair of the Barangay Consumer Association, acknowledged that similar complaints on the "selective" service of Sonesa 2 have reached her office.

She said she would be discussed in the cooperative's next meeting.

Dina, however, was doubtful to the Subic's Electrification Administration (NEA). Tash Feroz Jose, Bobby Lobabao, Inquirer Southern Luzon

Gov't can't stop Sierra Madre illegal logging

LUCENA CITY—EIGHTY-EIGHT(88) mobile land cruiser that cater to smuggear illegal logging activities have been operating at the foot of Sierra Madre in northern Quezon, a reliable source from among the mountain inhabitants reported Monday.

"The underground operation of mobile land cruiser has again become a lucrative business due to the return of rampant illegal logging activities. It seems that the notorious activities have never hunted from their tragic historie and the government is not doing anything," the informant said.

The informant has been the source of information of government anti-illegal logging operations and environmental groups regarding illegal logging operations in Sierra Madre.

The mobile land saw operator is called "tadtad" (chop-chop) in final Informa General Sulor (Bottar) area, said the informant.

"For most of the 'tadtads' are based along the Agos River to the village of Saraguo in Infanta town. The place is the nearest to the unestablishment point to the distribution of newly sawn illegal lumber coming from the hinter of Sierra Madre and transported through the river by hired boatmen," the informant added.

He said the hand saw operator commands a high price in exchange for his services.

"The rate differs as the pricing depends on the location of the logs to be sawn. If it's far and the handling of saw equipment will be hard for the operator, the illegal logger would spend more," he said.

He added, "Most of the illegally sawn lumber were being sold to auth and furniture makers. The resulting products will be passed off as products of artificial drifted logs."

Antonio Dirra, head of the local office of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in Real, said his staff has been working round the clock to monitor the rumored 'mobile sprouted' of illegal loggers.

"We've been monitoring all kinds of information, even text messages from text strangers. We're collecting all feedback and information before we make our move to save our limited manpower and human resources," he said.

"But we're ready to pounce on those—once we have collected solid evidence," he added.

Dirra said the DENR-manned checkpoints that have been set up along the Bolso-Lagoza road have been revitalized to date include members of multisectoral groups.

Last week, Antonio Principe, regional director of the DENR-Calabarzon region, announced that they will no longer grant any permits for logging operations because it was only being used for illegal logging operations.

"The DENR permits were just being used as fronts. The requests for permits have been continuing with zeroing on end. There are still lots of pending requests in essence and some timber products but we will no longer allow it," Principe told newsmen here last Monday after his meeting with members of the provincial council.

Last July 31, the DENR allowed a 60-day suspension of the log ban upon the request of Infanta, Real and General Nakar Southand Farmers Cooperative to dispose of their remaining harvested products from drifted logs and uprooted and fallen trees. The suspension ended last Sept. 14.

Principe admitted before the assembly of the emergence of timber poaching in Sierra Madre in Quezon province.

"Most of the those engaged in the illegal cutting of trees are Tausugs. But I'm sure their financiers were Christians from the lowland," Principe said. Gaffie T. Mellan Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon

East Visayas hospital offers employment to new nurses

By Joey A. Gabieta
Inquirer Visayas

TACLOBAN CITY—EASTERN TOMOMOWY generated by the breakup issues of the nursing licensure examinations last June. The nurses who passed will have a chance to land a job in the Eastern Visayas Regional Medical Center (EVRMC).

EVRMC chief of hospital Dr. Alberto de Leon said they would hire the June nursing board passers as long as they have the needed requirements for working in a government-supervised hospital.

"Why punish them? We should punish those who committed the mistake and not those who are innocent," Dr. Leon said.

He said that these "innocent" people must be given a chance to work and practice their profession.

"The nursing board is not the only barometer on the competence and the capability of nurses. What is important is that they were able to pass the four-year course and have the needed training," Dr. Leon said.

However, he (sob) said they have yet to receive applications from the June 2006 nursing board passers.

"What we have right now are those who passed from the previous board examinations," he said.

The hospital needs more than 50 new nurses to accommodate the big number of accredited and walk-in patients. The EVRMC is a tertiary hospital with a 200-bed capacity. At present, the hospital has 140 nurses.

The listing of names who took and passed the June 11-12 exams was put to doubt when in results were questioned due to allegations of leakage that attended the tests.

In Eastern Visayas, Professional Regulatory Commission regional chief Carmen Feliciano and the deans of the leading nursing schools in the region, such as the Iloilo Remedios Trinidad Medical Foundation and the St. Scholastica's School of Health and Sciences, have denied that cheating took place in the region headed by the leakage.

Based on the records of the regional PRC, 163 of the 264 students who took the tests passed. One, Morgana Leslie Sunday with an 80.40 passing rate, landed No. 10. She graduated from St. Scholastica.

HAPPY FACES
A creative mestiza buyers of painted masks that he tries to sell in view for the celebration of Bharabal City's Pinaskara Festival. The festival has become famous for the colorful masks that street performers wear as they dance and parade in the city's streets.

Overspending execs of power co-op sacked

By Ambert Joaquin
Inquirer Central Luzon

CASTILLEJOS, ZAMBALES—THE National Electrification Administration (NEA) yesterday ordered the entire member board of directors of the Zambales Electric Cooperative II (Zameco II) be booted out.

Pauline Lopez, the newly appointed project supervisor who will oversee the operations of the cooperative, said Zameco II's general manager and its rank and file employees were not covered by the reorganization.

"Only the members of the board, including its president, were removed from office," Lopez said.

In a resolution last November 2004, the NEA ordered now Dominguez, Zameco II president, removed from office for lavish spending.

NEA audit reports in 1998 and 2002 found that Dominguez's mobile phone bills averaged more than P74,000 a month from 1998 to 2002, despite having a company-issued cellular phone whose billings were charged to the cooperative.

The audit reports also showed Dominguez spent more than P600,000 for plane tickets in his various trips.

Dummy firm

The NEA also found that Dominguez awarded a P.M million contract to realize reclaim project to his dummy company.

NEA ordered removed from office now members of the cooperative's board of directors who received P.5 million in benefits, allowances and bonuses, which the NEA branded as illegal.

The NEA, however, failed to implement its resolution two years ago after the Zameco II board filed two petitions with the Court of Appeals—one for review and another for restraint and prohibition.

But the CA, on Oct. 4, this year, denied both petitions for lack of merit, paving the way for the removal of Dominguez and the board members.

The CA also upheld the appointment of Lopez as project supervisor.

Dominguez said the CA decision was not yet final and executory. He said he has 15 days from receipt of the order to file a motion for reconsideration.

In his motion filed on Oct. 16, Dominguez said the NEA has no jurisdiction over the case.

He said the NEA's "unilateral raid" to the cooperative "has already been resolved by law." He said he would be vindicated.

Edel Correa, Zameco II general manager, assured their consumers that there would be no disruption in the delivery of services as a result of the takeover.

Other perks

In its June 23, 1998 audit report, NEA said the Zameco II declared illegally collected 120% overtime pay, premium pay, night differential and incentive bonuses, meal/and and clothing allowances, grocery payment, discount bonus and separation payments from January 1999 to September 1999. The amount totaled P3.6 million.

The July 24, 2003 audit report, on the other hand, showed that Zameco II had receivables amounting to P33.5 million from the Central Luzon Power Transmission Corp., Transformer City (CLPTDC) and Zambales Power Corp. which, the report said, were dummy corporations of Dominguez.

Pangasinan townsfolk reject P250-M landfill

By Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BINMALEY, PANGASINAN—Residents here rejected a proposed P250-million sanitary landfill where garbage from 12 towns and three cities of Pangasinan and some by provinces would be dumped.

During a public hearing on the project here on Friday, the residents expressed apprehension over the risks that the proposed project posed to their environment, water sources, health and livelihood.

The landfill project will be undertaken by the Manila Integrated Network Systems Inc. (MINIS), a company organized in March this year, in an 85-hectare area in Barangay Dasoc here.

Company officials said the garbage would be compacted in areas called "cells" that are equipped with liners to prevent wastes from contaminating groundwater. The leachate, liquid produced from decomposing wastes, will be collected in ponds and will be treated, they said.

They said MINIS would put up services such as waste-sorting and segregation, recycling and composting, sanitary landfill and landscaped buffer zone.

MINIS would also conduct community relations activities, campaigns on proper solid waste management and socio-civic and economic development programs for the village.

The firm's future projects include a special sanitary landfill for medical and hospital wastes and power generation.

But most of the more than 1,500 residents who attended the public hearing called by the provincial board were not impressed.

Fe Manuel Reaves, the town's parish priest, doubted if the sanitary landfill would be an "asset to" as it was presented by proponents because the project has yet to be tested in other areas.

"This is merely an experiment and the [residents] may suffer because of it," Reaves said.

He said representatives of this town, known as the core belt of Pangasinan, would not want Bugallon to be known as the "barurahan" (garbage dump) of the province.

Benjamin Papadinguen, 74, questioned why Bayambang would be the center of waste management of the province's richest towns when republic Act No. 9003 (Solid Waste Management Act) "called for clustering of municipalities, and not towns," in the establishment of a solid waste management facility.

Mayor Reynaldo Parayno assured the facility to be for the exclusive use of the town.

Number of leftist groups in Cordillera growing despite murders

LEFTIST militants who are not killed end up in jail...like this group of farmers who were locked behind bars in a Lucena City jail after they held a rally in front of the mansion of a landowner whom they accused of grabbing their farms.

BAGUIO CITY—UNMOVED BY the spate of recent political killings, militant groups in the Cordillera said their number has been increasing.

Windel Bolinget, secretary general of the Cordillera Peoples Alliance, made the declaration during the group's congress on Sunday at Teachers' Camp here. He said more activists' groups in the region are "now coming out in the open."

From 136 groups in 2001, the number has increased to 193 under the Arroyo administration, he said.

"Despite the element of fear of being an open target for being associated with a militant group, we see that there are people in their communities who have decided to join the ranks of the activists because they have been pushed to do so," Bolinget said the 400 congress participants, mostly representatives of indigenous peoples' groups.

Issues

"Issues such as human rights violations, militarization and the destruction of ancestral lands due to the so-called development projects have pushed these people to the limit."

He said the "underpeople" policies of the administration have intensified issues which he called "discontent" of the indigenous peoples.

Andres Wallas, vice chair of the farmers' group Ayo-Taku, said more farmers in the region are fighting the alleged abuses and acts of harassments against them by the authorities. Farmers in Mt. Province, Ifugao, Kalinga and Abra have been experiencing them almost, he said.

"These farmers are often subjected to harassments because they are accused of being members or sympathizers of the New Peoples Army," he said.

Beverly Longid, newly elected chair of the CPA, said the group's organizations are re-aligned by the killing of at least 40 activists affiliated with the CPA and Bayan Muna.

"One of the major issues faced by the activists in the Cordillera is how to continue fear in the middle of political repression, though we cannot say fear as the main reason to stop organizing our ranks," she said.

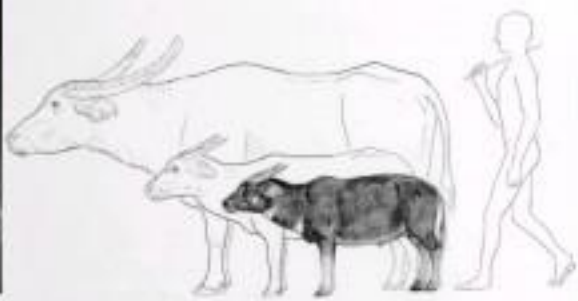
Easy targets

She said of the 170 activists who were killed under the Arroyo administration, 79 came from indigenous peoples' groups.

"Farmers are increasingly more threats and harassments in the coming days because of our rejection of the Charter change," she said.

On Sunday, the congress passed a resolution calling for the victims of political killings in the Cordillera. Bayan Muna leaders Walter Bugit, Alice Omengan, Claver and Romeo Sanchez and activists Jose Managdag, Alfred Trovichado and Jose Gumaan Mendoza Cabaos, in particular Windel Bolinget.

ANCIENT DWARF CARABAO Larry Heaney, curator of mammals at the Field Museum in Chicago, poses with one of the bones which were left at the museum a decade ago by a certain layman, at this undated handout photo. Researchers say the bones have turned out to be the only known fossil remains of a dwarf water buffalo that roamed the Philippines in the last Ice Age. AFP/FILE



AN UNLIKELY image shows a drawing of what the dwarf water buffalo may have looked like, compared to the tamaraw and the commercial or domestic water buffalo. AFP/FILE

GMA honors new Thai prime minister

Front page 4-1

ensuring the success of democracy and peace to nourish the indomitable spirit of the people of Thailand."

Of her talks with Surayud, the President said: "We had a very excellent and candid discussion and, to us, very enlightening."

"My congratulations to you personally once again to your international democrats which you hope to complete within a year's time," Ms Arroyo added.

For his part, Surayud said: "While your support the Royal Thai government is determined to reconcile Thailand's path to the full restoration and revitalization of democracy."

Surayud said that he was happy to share common perceptions on political, security and economic developments each Ms Arroyo.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said last week that the Philippines respected Thailand's political process but "it does not follow that we agree with their methodologies in changing their leaders."

THAI Prime Minister Surayud Chulanont arrives at the Villamor Air Base for a brief visit to Manila as part of his farewell state tour. ARNOLD ALMACEN

Disappointed by coup

Surayud's visit to the Philippines—his fifth and last stop in a familiarization tour of Thailand's allies—was interrupted by a heavy downpour yesterday afternoon, which forced the transfer of an elaborate welcome ceremony at the Palace garden to the Palace foyer.

On arrival at Malacañang, Surayud was met by Ms Arroyo, Senate Senate Secretary Juan Ponce Enrile and Foreign Secretary Raphael Lotilla.

Surayud—who led a low-key delegation in his visit—was accompanied by a small delegation which included Deputy Prime Minister Pridiyathorn Devakula and Foreign Minister Nitya Pibulsonggram.

Members of the diplomatic corps also attended the arrival ceremonies with all Asean members represented. El Ambassador Antonio Rommy was notably absent.

Key player

Ms Arroyo signed the guest book and exchanged pleasantries with Philippine officials and the diplomats, he said Ms Arroyo proceeded to the main room of the Palace for an expanded bilateral meeting.

Bilateral trade between the two countries totaled $1.88 billion last year.

In her speech during the dinner, which was not open to the media, Ms Arroyo said she was "honored to host with us as accomplished leader and personal friend, undoubtedly a dedicated public servant who has given all his years to serve his country and was also a key player on the world stage."

Lolicit 40 years in the Thai military, Surayud, a former army commander, had built a reputation as a reliable and incorruptible leader, he was credited with turning the Thai military into a modern, professional body.

Thai-RP ties

"Having distinguished himself as a valiant soldier on the battlefield, his leadership as Prime Minister formed Orchestra was positive over a wider and more challenging arena—which calls for his deep experience and wisdom as all terms," said Ms Arroyo.

The President also expressed confidence that the ties between the Philippines and Thailand would continue to flourish under his watch.

Ms Arroyo cited the 7,000 Filipinos working and residing in Thailand as well as the 1,000 Thais working and studying in the Philippines as a sign of the growing interaction between the two nations.

Where cultures blend

"After all, we belong to the same vibrant region where cultures and peoples blend in solidarity and goodwill," Ms Arroyo said.

As the dean of the Asean family, set to be held in Cebu in December, the President called on the support of Surayud to "several initiatives that we have laid down in the interest of collective peace, stability and progress."

"Under Your Excellency's assured leadership, Thailand will have a major part in harvesting this process."

Asean tradition

Surayud was installed by coup leaders who ousted billionaire Prime Minister Thaksin Chinawatra in Sept. 19.

"The visit to the Philippines is traditionally done by any new Asean leader," Thai foreign ministry spokesperson Kitid Watanasiri said, before Surayud arrived in Manila.

"They will discuss the upcoming Asean-China meeting [in] this month. The other topic will include regional security," he said.

Close to Thaksin

Ms Arroyo, who has herself faced down coup attempts, saw Thaksin as a friend and ally—and if, but Manila has made it clear it will stay out of Thailand's internal affairs.

"I don't think the Philippines will try to push the restoration of democracy in Thailand, even though Arroyo herself was known to be close to Thaksin," said Chulalongkorn University political science professor of Bangkok's Chulalongkorn University.

"This is for diplomacy reasons. She may ask them to explain what has happened but, as a leader, she will not push or say something directly."

Surayud's visit to the Philippines follows similar trips to Laos, Cambodia, Malaysia and Indonesia. He will visit Vietnam on Thursday, but has no plans to visit Singapore, Brunei or military-ruled Burma (Myanmar). *With reports from AFP and AP*

60 percent of Pinoys doubt SC fairness, says poll

Front page 4-1

fears may derail them from supporting the petition, but the magistrates' actor expected to remain independent.

President Macapagal-Arroyo and Speaker Jose de Venecia have

Following the news

The SWS also said that 70% of respondents in Metro Manila followed news reports on the "Ocampo's initiative" on signature campaign in favor of certain amendments in the Constitution "very or somewhat closely."

Fifty-one percent closely followed related news in Metro Manila, 43 percent in the rest of Luzon, 41 percent in Mindanao and 29 percent in the Visayas.

Nearly one in two of those who belong to upper classes ABC (47 percent) followed the news closely, as with 42 percent in class D and 28 percent in class E.

The survey also found that trust in the Supreme Court's fair decision on the petition was high or strong from who followed the news closely.

Among those who said they had "much trust" that the Supreme Court would make wise decisions on the petition, 21 percent said they followed news reports "very closely," while 19 percent said they followed it "somewhat closely." *Kristi Ruferos, Inquirer Research*

'Little officials' learn, teach good governance

Front page A-1

brain in trying to compute them so they can keep on their schooling.

His solution is simple. Rule all forms of computer games to be betrayed about.

Sought for comment about the ongoing debate on amending the Constitution, his reply was short, quickly followed by a pause: "I don't know anything about Charter change."

His name is Kim Russell Gutierrez, a 10-year-old Grade 5 student at Concepcion Integrated School.

He and 14 other grade school pupils were "elected" new officials of the city government last week. They are scheduled to take their oath of office tomorrow morning.

Oops! There are no suspicious strikes against Mayor Alfredo City Mayor Aladdin Fernando and members of the city council. They did not resign either.

Children's month

The pupils, also called "little officials," are members of a "Kiddie government" formed in the city in celebration of National Children's Month.

Child welfare coordinator Hadessa Sarew said the activity would enable the pupils to learn about "good governance."

"They (children) also have the right to participate and they have the right to express their views and opinions," Sarew told reporters during the presentation of the little officials to the media in City Hall yesterday.

The little officials, who will have a memorandum tomorrow, will observe normal sessions and visit a clear factory and other establishments.

SP4 Hazen Hadeeh Estandian will sign a memorandum of agreement with recall for the drawing of a 30-second advertisement to present the use of biofuels.

Consultants

The names of the little officials will be announced, however, so they will have to master their posts after two days.

But the children will all be considered "consultants" for the city's efforts to promote children's welfare, according to Justo. The city is already drafting developmental, investment and local government plans for children.

The little officials are also expected to help draft a proposed project or ordinance other than ordinance to local governments and the community.

The children, members of their respective elementary schools, were endorsed last week for an election, but only the girls were allowed to run for mayor.

Smallest

Celestino is dreaming of becoming a businessman and not a politician. But he said he was happy to be elected little congressman. He is the smallest in the group and could easily be mistaken for a preschool pupil.

Desiree Ortiba, a Grade 6 student at Fatima Elementary School, wants to run for public office someday.

Asked what position she was eyeing, her answer sounded like a traditional politician's: "Whatever position the people would want her on."

She said she wanted to help others.

Told that many politicians were perceived to be corrupt, she quickly replied: "Not all of them."

Remember, when asked what she thought was the most welcomes problems of the city, said that while Marikina was known for its shoemakers, "some residents still throw their garbage into the river."

Her vice mayor, Jeo-Mel Garcia, said the biggest problem in the city was academic cheating in computer drugs and ill drugs.

"Owners of computer shops should be told to limit their operating hours, unlike now when they operate as long as three to four days," Garcia said.

Celestino, who claims he does not play online games, quickly agreed. He said computer games should be banned in the city. Computers, according to him, should only be used for "educational" purposes.

THIS WEEK'S REAL DEAL
NOVEMBER TRAVELS
from 1,638 PESO
VISA
Getnow the real deal
Cebu Pacific Airways.com

"Gusto ko, ako ang alarm clock ng mister ko sa New York."

Puwede na sa text. Pero mas masarap pa ring tumawag. Posible! Dito lang po sa GLOBE TIPID IDD.

Tawag abroad for as low as
P0.17 KADA SEGUNDO
For Postpaid and Prepaid

Kahit maikli ang tawag, mas may feelings pa rin ang boses mo kaysa sa text.

Sampol ng tawag	Seconds	Cost
"Good morning mahal. Nag-breakfast ka na?"	3	P0.51
"Hon, napanaginipan kita kagabi."	2	P0.34
"Miniss!"	1	P0.17

Dial 12800 (Country Code) (Area Code) (Phone Number)
Kung may tinatawagan ka na sa abroad, paitan lang ng 12800 ang "+" or "00" sa unahan ng phone number.

AVAILABLE TO ALL NETWORKS IN THESE COUNTRIES:
Australia, Canada, China, Hong Kong, Kuwait, Malaysia, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, UK and US.
Rate based on US$ 0.0053 x P31.00 = P0.17

For more info, text TIPID IDD to 2525 for free

Opo kabalikat! Dahil ang bilas mo sa Globe

NEWS

Filariasis afflicts 645,232 Filipinos

By Christian V. Esguerra

AS MANY AS 645,232 FILIPINOS are afflicted with lymphatic filariasis, a parasitic infection that leads to a disfiguring disease called elephantiasis, according to the Department of Health.

Citing the findings of the University of the Philippines' National Institutes of Health, the DOH said 76 percent of these cases were in fourth- or ninth-class municipalities, meaning the poorest towns. If left unabated, it said the figures could rise to 23 million.

DOH Secretary Francisco Duque III yesterday announced a mass drug administration campaign to combat the infection in 39 provinces where it is endemic.

The drug, a combination of diethylcarbamazine citrate and albendazole, was donated by giant pharmaceutical company Glaxo Smith Kline. Arnulfo Tadiwa, the company's managing director, said GSK had in its account 98 million tablets.

Symptoms

The DOH said lymphatic filariasis, also dengue fever, is transmitted through mosquito bites and can affect all members of the population.

Symptoms include fever, cough, chills, wheezing, pain and swelling in any of these parts: arms, breasts, scrotum, penis/vulva, or legs.

"The problem of filariasis in the country calls for a multisectoral approach with active participation of other government agencies, the business sector, and civil society," Duque said in a press conference.

"We can end the cycle of human suffering and declare the Philippines filariasis-free only if we pursue together to finally eliminate it as a public health threat."

Deadline 2020

He said the goal was to wipe out the disease by 2020, the deadline set by the international community.

Areas where the infection is endemic are Marinduque, Masbate Oriental and Occidental, Palawan, Basilan, Alibay Lanao-del Norte and Sur, Cotabato, Malabang, Sarangani, Bukidnon, Zamboanga Norte, Northern Samar, Western Samar, and Northern and Southern Leyte.

The disease is also present in Negros Oriental, Zamboanga del Norte, Zamboanga del Sur, Zamboanga Sibugay, Bukidnon, Misamis Occidental, Misamis Oriental, Davao del Norte, Davao del Sur, Davao Oriental, Compostela Valley, Sarangani, South Cotabato, North Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat, Surigao del Sur, Surigao del Norte, Agusan del Sur, Agusan del Norte, Iloilo, Biliran and Maguindanao.

New Caledonia president says sorry for 'attacks' on RP workers

By Nikko Dizon

NEW CALEDONIA'S PRESIDENT Harold Martin Philippine government for "regret and embarrassment for the recent actions and "unacceptable comments" recently made by "senior executives" against Filipino workers in the Pacific territory.

In her letter, President Blaise Noelle Thereseone stressed the importance of Filipino workers in the building of the $2-billion nickel and cobalt processing plants in New Caledonia.

"I feel that it is necessary to assure that the movement only concerns a minority group of extremists. Our Territory [New Caledonia] is ashamed of the xenophobic comments that were heard in Noumea's streets over the last few days and I can assure you that they do not reflect the attitude of the immense majority of New Caledonia's inhabitants," Thereseone said.

Manila appeared to have been satisfied with Thereseone's letter. Philippine Consul General Maria Theresa Lazaro described the letter as "apologetic and encouraging in tone."

"I wish to inform you how very satisfied we are to the Filipino[s] nationals. With our thanks, it would not be possible to build this refinery," Thereseone added.

The plant is managed by the Goro Nickel Co. and the Nickel Company of New Caledonia (SMSM).

Aplus METRO
Editor Ester G. Diposcupil

Moms in hospital had infection–DOH

But Rizal facility officials could face probe for negligence on tots' deaths

EARLY MORNING SALE
A man buys a cap for his son before the start of the morning prayers held at the Lanang Grandstand in Sta. Ana, Davao City, yesterday. Muslims in the country's south are celebrating Eid'l Fitr which marks the end of the fasting month of Ramadan. AFP PHOTO

By Christian V. Esguerra

BETWEEN TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY last week, the government's Rizal Medical Center (RMC) in Pasig City were responsible for the death of seven babies due to neonatal sepsis on Oct. 4.

But based on the findings of a joint medical team which had been ordered to investigate the deaths, cases of the blood-borne infection were unknown to the hospital.

"All of these strongly point to some degree of negligence," Health Secretary Francisco Duque III said in a press conference last weekend.

According to the joint findings, the latest deaths on Oct. 4 resulted from the "outbreak of highly fatal, multi-resistant newborn sepsis."

The stage of the infection, meaning it was acquired within the days from birth, indicated that "mother-to-child transmission had occurred somewhere during."

Had it been "later onset sepsis" or acquired within seven to 30 days from birth, the hospital could have been considered in the equation, according to Dr. Enrique Tayag, National Epidemiology Center (NEC) chief.

"But since the deaths were cases of early onset sepsis, they could not have been hospital-acquired—the infection was really from the mothers," he told the Inquirer.

From January to Oct. 25, the infection killed as many as 49 babies in RMC, up from 45 during the same period last year, accord-

(STORY CONTINUES ON A 18)

Pacquiao wins this bout outside boxing ring

By DJ Yap

GOOD NEWS FOR BOXING HERO Manny Pacquiao, but bad news to his rumored girlfriend and their alleged 1-year-old son.

The Quezon City prosecutor's office has junked his lack of evidence the criminal complaint filed by Joanna Rose Rances against the boxer, accusing him of failing to provide financial support to their rumored love child.

In a five-page resolution, assistant city prosecutors Rhoda Cayetano Casanlang said there was lack of probable cause to indict Pacquiao since Rances has not presented documentary proof that the boxer was indeed the father of her child.

"The case to claim that her child was deliberately deprived of financial support ... it is necessary first to prove that the child is entitled to support from his putative father," she said.

The resolution was dated May 2, but it was approved by the city prosecutor and made official only yesterday.

Rances filed the complaint in February after Pacquiao allegedly stopped giving financial support to their alleged son.

In her complaint, she accused the boxer of violating the law protecting women and children from violence, or Republic Act 9262, by threatening to have their son kidnapped.

According to Rances, she met the boxer in March 2005 while working as a "spotter" and waitress at a billiard hall. Rances claimed that the famous Pacquiao's girlfriend and gave birth to their son on Jan. 2, 2006.

Rances said Pacquiao sent her certain amounts, ranging from P100,000 to just P1,000, when she was still pregnant but the money stopped coming after she gave birth.

At one point, the boxer threatened to kidnap the boy when he learned of her intention to sue him for child support, Rances said.

In his counteraffidavit, Pacquiao denied Rances's allegations but neither confirmed nor denied that they had a sexual relationship.

In her resolution, Casanlang said a baptismal certificate, one of the evidence submitted by Rances stating that Pacquiao was the child's father, did not resolve the issue of paternity since it only showed that the child was baptized in that date.

Pictures of Pacquiao with Rances and the boy were also insufficient to prove that he was the father, she added.

"[and pictures only proved that consortment and her child posed with respondent and [sic] both pursue other together," Casanlang added.

During the preliminary investigation, Rances's camp offered to subject Pacquiao's alleged son to a DNA test, provided that the boxer also undergo testing.

Pacquiao, however, declined.

PCU prexy won't quit, denies loan accusation

By Tina S. Santos

THE PRESIDENT OF PHILIPPINE Christian University (PCU) yesterday said he is not resigning despite protests over his alleged incompetence and involvement in corruption cases.

"I'm not resigning because I have a commitment to put the school in order. I will stay in my position," Dr. Oscar Rances told the Inquirer in an interview.

Last week, faculty members and workers of PCU staged a walkout to voice out their displeasure over Rances's management style and his involvement in the supposedly illegal disbursement of university funds.

Rances, who is serving his second five-year term as president of the PCE campuses on Taft Avenue and Dimasalang, Cavite, said the protests against him were baseless, considering he do with the salary or demand for a salary increase.

"The administration of this point is deferring salary increases to make sure that PCU can meet all financial obligations in the years to come. It's a pending matter, but it doesn't mean that we did not intend to do that. We just do not want to rush because there are a number of things we have to consider," he said.

Rances also denied an allegation that he had made an unauthorized loan of P32 million from the university's developmental projects" in 2004, using PCU's own funds as collateral.

He claimed that the loan was authorized, explaining that in 2000, the PCU Board of Trustees had authorized school officials to put the university's funds in high-yield investment portfolios.

Rances also denied claims that he divided the P32 million to Tyrex Stone Trading, a company then registered to the name of his wife, Heidilyn.

The Commission, his critics accused, "clearly showed a conflict of interest."

ONE FIXED RATE.
ONE FIXED MONTHLY.
ONE HOME LOAN.

FIXED
for up to 25 years.
Only from PSBank.

PSBank
T.G.I.F.

Own peace of mind with a fixed monthly when you buy your home today through PSBank Home Loan. Enjoy a fixed interest rate of 11.5% for a 25-year loan term. A first in Philippine Banking!

Affordable fixed interest rates are also available for 5, 10 and 20-year loan terms.

Apply now at any PSBank branch nationwide. And if you don't get results in five days or less, we'll give you 1% off your first year's interest rate. Guaranteed.

PSBank Home LOAN

'Wowowee' victims to file suit vs ABS-CBN

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

THE RELATIVES OF VICTIMS OF THE "Wowowee" stampede last February at the Philippine Arena (formerly Ulima) plan to file a class suit against TV network ABS-CBN and its chief executive officer Eugenio "Gabby" Lopez III.

"There is now probable cause (for the suit)," Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption founding chair Dante Jimenez said, citing the Department of Justice decision in the reckless imprudence resulting in multiple homicide and physical injuries charges against show executives.

"The lawyers of (the) millions poured with the completion of (the) suit but we will file against ABS-CBN," said Jimenez, whose group is helping the victims.

Jimenez said about 300 survivors as well as relatives and friends of some of those who were killed during the stampede in a show thanksgiving prayer yesterday morning.

They gathered at the same gate where 71 persons, mostly old women, were pinned to death during the first anniversary celebration of noontime show "Wowowee." Sheets of paper were hung at the gate, saying "Dalisi (Justice) for Ulira Stampede Victims."

Many of those who showed up said they used to watch the noontime show religiously.

"I don't watch it now. I would just remember everything that happened," 65-year-old Estrellita Udarve, who was with her mother Virginia Javiero and sister Josephine during the stampede, said. Udarve sustained bus her mother and sister were killed in the stampede.

"How sad that they enjoy the show using many of us are still suffering?" asked Benicia Albalate. The victim's show went back on air about a month after the tragedy (but added that her mother Digna can no longer stand on her own after she sustained injuries during the stampede. "We have been going in and out of the hospital and we are using our own money. This has been very hard for us," she said.

In a statement faxed to the Inquirer, Manolo Espinosa, the network's vice president for government, corporate affairs and public relations, said "in sync (with) the end use and continuous (with all it can to help them through the) 71 Dreams Foundation, set up to address the needs of families with (special) needs concerns."

MONTHS have passed but relatives of those killed in the "Wowowee" stampede said they have yet to get over their loss. In a meeting yesterday, they said they are planning to file a class suit against ABS-CBN top official Gabby Lopez.

NBI employees call off protest vs new official

By Marguax C. Dria

EMPLOYEES WHO WERE PLANNING TO hold a silent protest against the appointment of former Manila police chief Dulce Balaoing as assistant director of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) have scrapped their plan after the agency's top official called for unity and harmony yesterday.

In a statement distributed to media, the employees, who were not identified, said they called off the scheduled peaceful assembly beside the NBI market "in (the) step to the healing process and unity in the institution."

They assured, however, that while they had decided to heed the call of NBI Director Nonnatus Rojas for unity they would continue to fight for the bureau's pride, dignity and honor.

Before Balaoing's appointment to the post, some employees had pushed for the appointment of an insider.

In a previous statement, some NBI personnel had stressed that Balaoing's appointment is a "big blow to the NBI's pride and image as we campaign for the professionalization and institutionalization of our career officials."

Moms . . .

From page A17

ing to the NEC and the five-person independent probe team.

All in all, the hospital encountered 127 cases this year compared to only 83 from January to October last year.

Duque said the Department of Health's legal office was now conducting a deeper investigation of BMC facilities and procedures for the possible filing of administrative charges against its officials.

The DOH executive committee was also set to decide whether or not to extend the lease of director of BMC officials, or move them to another institution.

"The increase in incidence and mortality rate of newborn sepsis at BMC this year compared to last year is alarming and should have alerted hospital officials to impose corrective actions, even if the outbreak was not hospital-acquired," Duque said.

Lotharios at the Court of Appeals?

ON TARGET
Raissa Jajo

HERE'S A TIDBIT I GOT FROM AN insider at the Court of Appeals:

One of the court's division clerks of court (there are 17 of them), allegedly had an affair with a stenographer both are married.

The good-looking clerk of court wanted to end the relationship because, according to my source, "nasasakan na siya" the same is his actions). The stenographer is a plain Jane. In retaliation, the stenographer confronted the lady husband, an immigration agent, about the liaison.

The husband, a guy ranked in his mid-, rushed to the office of the clerk of court to confront the guy who made a cuckold of him. Fortunately, somebody tipped off the CA clerk who left his office before his ex-lover's husband arrived.

A CA janitor advised the Romeo to file his early retirement to escape from an administrative case. But the advice was not without any vested interest.

The same CA janitor allegedly serves personal liaison to replace the retired lothario.

The lotharios has become hush-hush, as if nothing happened. The stenographer was asked to resign. The janitor didn't want the scandal to reach the media as the CA, according to my source, is allegedly a Peyton Place with many "unsung" distraction who prey on married scientist at the appellate court.

For that matter, affairs between married men and women are common in many government offices. That's the reason the sentenced homosexuals law was passed.

* * *

Speaking of sowang (the real meaning), the Catholic Church in Cagsi is a killjoy. It's trying to prevent the holding of an sowang festival in the province.

An sowang is a mythical creature that supposedly preys on the fetus of pregnant women. The two-day festival, to be held Friday and Saturday, will feature trade and job fairs, handicraft exposition, and symposia on the mysticism, culture and history of the sowang folklore.

Cagsi is known for its sowang. The festival, meant to make fun of the folklore, is aimed at drawing local tourists to the province.

HAVE YOU EVER HEARD OF "SEE TV COMMERCIAL FOR DETAILS"?

Of course not. Because TV just doesn't allow you to include important details. You can try cramming it in 30 seconds but chances are, you'll end up with very confused viewers. That's when the power of print comes in. Print ads and posters allow you to communicate completely. They make your market read, understand and buy. So if you really want to get to your target, use posters and print ads for details.

There's more to print.

UNITED PRINT MEDIA GROUP

UPMG

A shorter path to US citizenship, but not for all

BEVERLY LEWIS, 45, a Jamaican-born preschool nurse who has made her home in New York for 20 years, filed for citizenship in June with the help of her union, and prepared for a long wait. After all, as recently as a year ago, the US government acknowledged a huge backlog in such applications, and estimated that processing typically took almost a year and a half in New York—triple the wait in San Antonio or Phoenix.

But a mere three months and 13 days after Lindon applied, she was sworn in as a citizen. "I'm proud, and I'm happy I'm going to vote in November," said Lindon, 45.

Her success, however, underscores the frustration of Sophia McIntosh, another New Yorker from Jamaica who applied for citizenship through the same health care workers union program three years ago. Not only is she still waiting, but her case is also now among at least 360,000 immigrant applications pending nationwide that federal officials have amply stepped examining as part of their lookback—a backlog they had pledged to eliminate by this month.

"It's not fair," said McIntosh, 34, a nursing assistant and mother of two, who has been a legal resident of the United States since 1992. "I did all the right things. I want to be able to have a voice in this country."

Until recently, the glut of pending cases was so large that Peter Zeidi Frank's vows in 2001 to cut the standard wait (a six months or less nationwide) seemed unreachable. How immigration officials on Day have more than met that goal, shrinking the average wait for new recruits to a stunning six days.

But the numbers are not quite as rosy as they seem. To accomplish their mission, officials at the US Citizenship and Immigration Services replace, they identified and stopped counting thousands of backlogged cases that they now define as outside the agency's control, knowing those delayed by unexplained lags in standard security clearances by the FBI.

The result is a two-tier system. Most applicants think even one or serving a decision in record time, but others are still falling into the system's black holes.

While praising the agency's improvements, Immigrant advocates contend that officials have manipulated the figures to declare victory and made it harder to seek redress. AP

ARCHBISHOP of Canterbury Rowan Williams

China rulers embracing religion—Anglican leader

BEIJING—CHINA'S RULERS ARE now beginning to embrace religion in efforts to build a richer society but the persecution of religious groups remains a concern, the head of the world's Anglican Church said Monday.

Stepping up a rare two-week visit, Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams said China was on the verge of a "new phase of encounter" with many people looking to religion amid huge economic and social changes.

Williams said he noted increasing recognition within the officially atheist Communist Party that religion can have a positive impact in society where many have become isolated in the country's speedy economic progress.

"It's clear that the government recognizes that there is no way forward on this without the full cooperation of religious bodies," he told reporters in Beijing.

"The church is a vital partner. The church needs to be there alongside other organs of the developing civil society, raising questions and encouraging debates."

Williams, the leader of 77 million Anglicans worldwide, is the most senior Church of England prelate to visit China in more than a decade, following in the footsteps of predecessors Robert Runcie in 1981 and George Carey in 1993.

In contrast, Beijing and the Vatican, which represents more than a billion Roman Catholics worldwide, have yet to establish diplomatic ties. Both groups face restrictions in China.

Williams said that decades of persecution of religious groups that were not sanctioned by the government remained a serious concern.

"There is a record over the last 20 or 30 years of harassment of religious minorities, with which we're unhappy and it's wrong, and it is a problem and embarrassment for many people in high positions," he said.

Faced by few challenges to their rule, China's Communist rulers maintain strict control over religious affairs and require all faith communities to register and carry out activities in accordance with government regulations. There about 16 million members.

International rights groups often say harassment by authorities of those wishing to worship outside state control is robust new tribal "underground" or "house" churches. AFP

Divided Hungary marks 50th year of uprising

BUDAPEST—OVERHE 150 ousted leaders were set to join Hungarians on Monday in marking the 50th anniversary of the anti-Soviet uprising as bitter domestic politics threatened to overshadow the celebrations.

The main right-wing opposition party Fidesz was expected to boycott the commemorations aimed at by the governing Socialist parties, the successor to the Communist party after Hungary's transition to democracy in 1989.

The secret torpedoed efforts to use the half-century anniversary to unite the country in the spirit of the 1956 uprising, when a peaceful student protest spontaneously turned into a mass uprising against Stalinist oppression.

But among those planning to be on hand to remember the uprising were 38 European prime ministers and two panel ministers, the kings of Spain and Norway, and the heads of the European Commission and the Euro.

The anti-Communist Fidesz was to hold a separate commemoration in the afternoon, despite appeals by Hungarian President Laszlo Sólyom to the two of the anniversary to celebrate together in the spirit of the uprising.

But celebrations were already marred earlier Sunday when at a state ceremony to confer honors on people who helped Hungary in the uprising, refused to shake hands with Socialist Prime Minister Ferenc Gyurcsany.

It was a symbolic act of Gyurcsany, who although born five years after the uprising, was the leader of the communist youth organization in the 1980s.

Hungary's uprising erupted on Oct. 23, 1956, and was crushed by Soviet tanks on November 4, sending the country's first to a socialist state of Moscow until the fall of the Iron Curtain in 1989.

It all started as a peaceful student protest 50 years ago, and ended up casting intellectuals, students, workers and farmers to denouncing freedom after years of Stalinist oppression.

The protests turned into armed resistance across Hungary with youngsters, dubbed freedom fighters, grabbing guns and Molotov cocktails to throw street battles against Soviet tanks sent to put down the protests.

The crackdown resulted in the death of 2,000 Hungarians, a further 22,000 were wounded and 200,000 fled to the West. AFP

FREEDOM fighters stand on top of a tank in Budapest at the time of the uprising against the Soviet-supported Hungarian communist regime in 1956.

82 deaths a day: No solution in sight for US gun violence

By Bernd Debusmann

WASHINGTON—IT'S AN American way of death. More than 30,000 people die from guns, on average, every year, through murder, suicide and accidents.

That is an average of 82 a day, and prospects for reducing the toll are dim.

The debate between gun control advocates and the pro-gun lobby was reignited briefly this month by four school shootings, between Sept. 26 and Oct. 6.

In one, a man entering a parish, a shotgun and 600 rounds of ammunition shot 13 girls (execution-style in one case) when in Pennsylvania, killing five of them, and then killed himself.

In another, a 15-year-old took an AK-47 assault rifle to his school in Wisconsin, pointed it at administrators and other students and fired it into a ceiling.

At a hastily arranged White House Conference on School Safety on Oct. 18, panelists covered topics ranging from metal detectors and school bullies to the culture of religious beliefs and good communication between parents and teachers.

But the word "gun" was not mentioned until a plucky teenager pointed out to a panel moderated by Attorney General Alberto Gonzales that the solution, before was easy access to high-powered firearms. President George W. Bush and his wife Laura Bush attended separate parts of the conference but avoided mention of guns.

"The Bush administration is in complete denial regarding the catastrophic role that guns play in school violence," said Brian Ross of the Violence Policy Center, which, like other gun control advocates, was not invited to the conference.

"How is it even possible to have a discussion about preventing school shootings without talking about guns?"

Justice Department figures put the number of guns in private hands at more than 200 million—more than any other country—and swelling by several million every year.

The annual US production of pistols, revolvers, rifles and shotguns for the domestic civilian market has been running at between 2.6 million and more than three million for the past seven years, according to the Bureau of Alcohol, Firearms, Tobacco and Explosives.

"The US level of lethal violence is far out of line with those of other industrialized nations," said David Hemenway, director of the Harvard Injury Control Research Center. "The fact that most of our lethal violence involves firearms leads credence to the hypothesis that the prevalence of guns is a key problem."

That hypothesis, widely accepted outside of the rest of the world, is hotly contested by American advocates of unfettered access to guns, led by the National Rifle Association, who say that the second amendment to the Constitution gives all law-abiding citizens the right to bear arms. Reuter

When in the cockpit, please keep an eye on the other instruments, too.

IWC
SCHAFFHAUSEN
SINCE 1868

The WORLD

Editor Lawrence B. Ibarra

Thailand won't lift martial law just yet

BANGKOK, THAILAND—THAILAND'S MILITARY-installed government said Monday it will maintain martial law because supporters of ousted Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra still intend to create political chaos.

"So long as the situation remains that some people have not yet believed," Defense Minister Gen. Boonsrang Somtas told reporters. "If there are no political undercurrents, the opportunity to lift martial law will come home."

Boonsrang said the coup-head, who had rallied to supporters of Thaksin's Thai Rak Thai party in a bid to stop any moves against the interim government.

The military staged a bloodless coup on Sept. 19 when Thaksin was in New York on an official trip and appointed an interim government led by Prime Minister Surayud Chulanont, a former army commander. He has promised to step down after a new constitution is drafted and a general election held in October next year.

The international community has called on the Thai government to lift martial law as soon as possible. Among other restrictions on civil liberties, the law bars public gatherings of more than five people. The government has eased the restrictions by allowing public gatherings in six close areas.

Surayud has worked to mend and reinforce Thailand, where Thaksin's support was strong among the rural poor. He hopes to appease pro-Thaksin groups and stop them from organizing any action against the government.

Meanwhile Pattharaya, Thailand's legal adviser, told a news conference Sunday that Thaksin was not involved in any movement against the current government.

"Anything that causes divisiveness in Thailand, the former prime minister doesn't want it," he said.

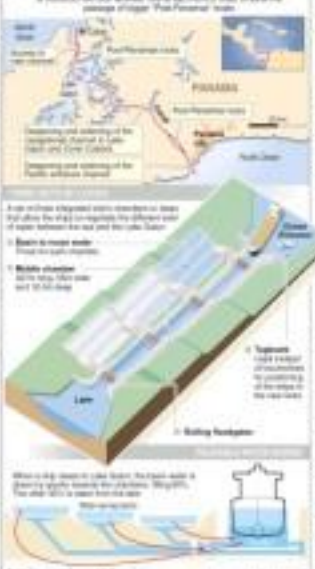
Pattharaya said that after martial law is lifted, he hoped Thaksin "will have an opportunity to return to the country to offer people his."

Thaksin, a telecom tycoon turned politician, promised him-self as a champion of the poor, and his policies made an impact. Health care and funds for village development caused him extensive popularity in rural areas.

His party won landslide victories in the 2001 and 2005 elections. However, he was increasingly opposed by the urban elite and middle class which accused him of corruption and abuse of power. AP

EXPANSION OF THE PANAMA CANAL

The Panama Canal, one of the engineering wonders of the world, will receive the biggest facelift in its 90-year history if Panamanians approve a plan to widen and deepen the waterway at a referendum on Sunday.



Voters OK Panama Canal widening

PANAMA CITY—VOTERS AP-proved Sunday a $5.25-billion plan to widen the historic Panama Canal, allowing the world's biggest ships passage between the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans.

"Today we have become the masters of our own destiny," President Martin Torrijos said. "Today we have laid the foundation for a better country."

Nearly 80 percent of voters casting ballots in favor of the proposal, the election tribunal said.

Torrijos and the Panama Canal Authority, the government agency that has run the waterway since it was handed over by the United States in 1999, insisted that only widening the 50-year-old waterway would keep it obsolete after 2012.

About 80 percent of the gross domestic product of Panama, with a population of three million, is linked directly or indirectly to canal activity. The canal's main users are the United States, China and Japan.

Proponents say the canal, through which roughly four percent of world trade passes, badly needs an overhaul to accommodate mega-ships and ensure competitive tolls against other maritime routes.

The plan calls for 30 locks to cross the Isthmus of Panama via the 80-km canal. But the actual passage time, including the wait, is 26 hours. AFP

Sudan expels top UN envoy

KHARTOUM—KHARTOUM SAYS the top UN representative in Sudan, three days to leave the country Sunday, marking a new low in relations soured by the row over the world body's proposed role in war-torn Darfur.

Jan Pronk, UN envoy Jan Pronk has prompted the ire of Sudanese President Omar el-Bashir's regime by criticizing its handling of the crisis in Darfur and pushing for the deployment of 20,000 peacekeepers there.

The envoy stepped into work and the government had to lift stringent clear-of-obstructing his departure but the military backed on Friday made it clear that the 66-year-old Dutch diplomat was persona non grata in Sudan.

The army said in a statement it considered Pronk's presence and movements in Sudan "a military threat that adversely affects the performance of the armed forces and this fact that does become a persona non grata."

It complained that the envoy had traveled around Sudan without government permission and dealt with rebel groups fighting the military in the western region of Darfur. AFP

SKILLING AP

Disgraced former Enron CEO awaits sentencing

HOUSTON, TEXAS—JEFFREY Skilling, chief executive of Enron Corp. who was convicted of massive fraud and conspiracy earlier this year, awaited sentencing here Monday as one of the biggest corporate scandals in US history drew close to its conclusion.

Skilling will learn his fate from US District Judge Simeon Lake whether his confederate, Enron founder Kenneth Lay who died of heart failure in July.

Lay's conviction on 10 counts of fraud, conspiracy and banking violations was thrown out on Wednesday because he died before he could appeal the verdict.

Skilling faces a maximum penalty of 185 years in jail after a jury found him guilty in May of 19 counts of conspiracy, fraud and insider trading.

Enron's spectacular collapse in 2001, then the largest corporate bankruptcy in history with more than $40 billion in outstanding debt, sacked energy and stock markets. Thousands lost their jobs and life savings.

"It was a masterful coup and unheralded case," said David Berg, a trial lawyer and legal analyst in Houston who has followed the proceedings closely. "I'd rank it up there with Watergate in the ways it shook public confidence."

While a raft of other business scandals followed, like Tyco, Ian Gone, Adelphia and Worldcom, it was Enron that became synonymous with corporate malfeasance.

And Skilling and Lay personified greed for hiding company losses and hyping the stock's value while selling their own shares on the sly.

Legislators invoked their names to justify passage of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act, which aims to improve corporate governance by making executives and boards of public companies personally responsible for accounting statements. AFP

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
TV GUIDE
Tuesday, October 24, 2006
ABC
finals na!
Philippine Idol
TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

WHAT'S INSIDE

■ Rogers keys Tigers victory/A23

SPORTS
Editor Teddyboy S. Philemon

■ Schumacher crosses finish line/A23

229 RP bets eye 5 Asiad golds

By Jaco Nonoy and Marc Anthony Reyes

AT THE VERY LEAST, FIVE gold medals.

This was the bold forecast of Philippine Sports Commission chair William "Butch" Ramirez after the Asiad Task Force finalized yesterday the list of 229 athletes to be sent for the 15th Asian Games set Dec. 1-15 in Doha, Qatar.

"It's very hard to make a prediction, but based on our analysis in billiards, bowling and combat sports, we can get more than five," Ramirez, also the Asiad Chef de Mission, told the Inquirer.

"We can't really be so sure but that is very probable."

The traditional top gold prospects are boxing, bowling, taekwondo, billiards and wushu. The ONE-third said he also expects big performances from equestrian, diving and even basketball.

"There are many promising names in the delegation and this is a good sign for us because these athletes have already proven themselves in several international tournaments against the best in the world," said Ramirez.

Completing the 351-strong RP contingent (see *Road Ramps below*) are 161 team officials, 16 medical personnel, 15 administrators and head chef Chef de Mission officers.

Deputy Chef de Mission Richie Garcia will lead the advance party of Team Philippines on Nov. 16 along with acting secretary-general Tonton Tugade and Meylan Mandaluyong and the secretariat's Cedric Mon Roque.

Thirty-one athletes from baseball, sailing, table tennis and badminton will compete the first week of athletes who will depart on Nov. 26.

Ramirez will lead the team lunch of 99 athletes from squishes, beach volleyball, boxing, chess, gymnastics, judo, rugby, sailing, shooting, soft tennis and weightlifting. They will leave two days later.

The rest of the athletes will be leaving on a staggered basis due to limited space at the Athlete Village, with the latest here the last to arrive is on Dec. 6.

Ramirez picked world champions Rong Wilfredo and Rein Catalan to deliver in wushu, multiple Southeast Asian Games gold winner Shalia Mae Perez in diving, SEAG veteran Gretchen Abraham and Monica Dadalion in billiards and Mary Tabanao in bowling.

Despite the absence of Efren "Bata" Reyes and Francisco "Django" Bustamante, Ramirez said billiards is a bright gold prospect, along with bowling.

The two sports along with equestrian delivered three medals for the country in the last Asiad in Busan, South Korea.

During Sopreservices will defend the event's doubles gold in bowling with a new partner after old teammate RJ Bautista failed to make the cut.

Cue artists Antonio Gabica and Leonardo Andales will take the place of Hilery Lining and Bustamante in 9-ball doubles, where the Filipinos are the defending champions.

Toni Leviste and Daniella Cuaresgui will try to duplicate the equestrian gold won by Mikee Cojuangco-Jaworski in her stomping ground.

Other medal hopefuls are daytime Pigueras (archery), Theodore Go and Toni Rivero (taekwondo), Dionne Pacunal and Heidi Hunter Dench volleyball), Filipe Medina and Jk Webb (swimming), Jethro Dionisio and Jamie Rivera (shooting), John Baylon (judo), Rommel Sanico (equestrian) and Cecil Mamiit and Bob Yates (tennis).

DOHA 2006
15TH ASIAN GAMES

On to Asian Games: Members of Team Philippines

Where you find the best.

JOR

ProGear Golf
JAPAN and U.S. Brand

Pavilion Tent
₱999
725-1480
sportshouse

SUBIC BAY MOTORS CORP.
MEGA SALE
TRUCKS, SUVs & PASS. VANS
OCTOBER 15-31, 2006
Open Daily, 8am - 5pm including Sundays
All Units have LOW STICKER PRICES ! !
TOYOTA INNOVA 2000cc. SEDDES
MITSUBISHI DELICA SUPER EXCEED
MITSUBISHI PAJERO NAL 2800cc.

BASADRE: Close Fight

Tipon, Basadre outclass foes

TWO FILIPINO BOXERS GUARDING UP for the Doha Asian Games made a triumphant start in the Youssor Cup International Boxing Championships currently in Tampere, Finland.

Mirasol Southeast Asian Games gold medalist Jeanmarie Tipon toyed with Israeli Hila Shtcherbatsky, 22-7, while lightweight Genshor Basadre beat local Sir Antoine Kotvinainin, 22-7.

Mauro Lopez, president of the Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines, said the event featuring former Free Europe, Asia and Africa will be used as the final phase of the Dec. tournament preparation for this squad.

Two more Pinoy boxers—welterweight Francis Jasno and featherweight Anthony Marcial—were scheduled to climb the ring against Peter Mercado, Mendo of Cameroon and Ali Rahhali of Morocco, respectively.

THIS BABE CAN TAKE CARE OF HERSELF.
BUY A MAZDA3 AND GET 3 YEARS WARRANTY AND 3 YEARS PERIODIC MAINTENANCE SERVICE—FREE!

Warriors rise from ruins of UAAP campaign

PUNGGER: Special

By Jasmine W. Payo

IT DIDN'T TAKE LONG FOR THE UNIVERSITY of the East Red Warriors to get their focus back.

Just a month after their UAAP debacle, the Warriors claimed the Collegiate Champions League crown, calling a tournament that few noted the return of coach Tic Ramirez.

"It's hard to motivate any team that's hurting, but the boys showed they can bounce back," said UE coach Cholo Ramirez. "I'm glad they maintained enough poise [when] they were down 2-0 [in the UAAP finals]. I think the win showed that the boys can overcome challenges."

Indeed, the Warriors have every reason to be proud. Bowled [0]ff in the tournament, the Warriors brandished a formidable varsity squad still basking from its championship glory.

The four Reds Red Lions, boosted by 6-foot-5 Nigerian Sam Ekwe, were banned to dispute their second title in two months.

But Lions coach Ray Gural recommended the exhibition Pandas the give-and-go Warriors, who also sent three players [to] the national team.

In the winners take all finals, the Warriors found salvation from beyond the arc as Red Rhinelle Player James Martinez buried [eight] [three]-point attempts in the second half for [a] 94-straight fast Sunday.

"Winning the title boosted the team's confidence," said Pumaren. "The fans from the last tournament had all the best collegiate teams in the country today made the arts very special."

The Warriors, who finished third in the UAAP wars for the Santo Tomas Tigers, also routed Universities and Colleges Athletic Association champion Emilio Aguinaldo Generals, NCAA runner-up Philippine Christian Dolphins and semifinalist Olympic Cardinals.

"We didn't reach our goal in the UAAP, but the boys felt that people still believe in them in us," said Pumaren.

Vilog rules triathlon, regains RP pool berth

By Jasmine W. Payo

A YEAR OF UNCERTAINTY CAME TO AN END for Hernan Antonio Jr. Vilog.

The veteran triathlete, suspended from the national team last year as a disciplinary measure, reclaimed his old slot after bagging the overall championship in the 2004 Speedo Swimsuit Aqua Group Triathlon Series.

Vilog amassed 300 points after riding three previous legs and finishing second in the final race last Sunday at the Ninoy Park in Ayala Alabang Village.

A fourth in the national pool was part of the [illegible] for the top finishers of the six-leg series.

"My purpose is to get back in the national team," said Vilog, who dominated the [illegible] in Davao City in Davao, Los Baños in Laguna and Lakeshore in Manila, Pampanga. "The [illegible] is now a reality. I'm making sure it won't happen again."

Mark Candelaria, another former champion, finished second overall.

Candelaria, fully recovered from an anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) injury, collected 290 points after topping the Alabang leg and placing second in the Los Baños and Lakeshore races.

"I've been coaching in duathlon and I just wanted to improve my time, to condition training," said the 30-year-old Candelaria.

A national titlist from 2000 to 2001, Candelaria landed the Alabang leg in a 900-meter swim, 24-kilometer bike, 7-km run event—in 1 hour 25 minutes and 40 seconds.

Vilog, twice sacrificed in a flat tire in the bike leg, came in a couple of minutes later at 1:27:46.

"The new ISSA Games is my target," said Vilog, a triathlon bronze medalist in 2003 in 2004.

In the women's division, 17-year-old Shiela Stephens bagged the overall title with 300 points.

Stephens, a second year high school student from Colegio San Agustin Bilibid, earned a ride in the Speedo Swimsuit Aqua Group Triathlon Series Alabang (2:16:13) and Los Baños and fourth in Lakeshore.

UNIVERSITY GAMES

Manila bets show might on all fronts

By Cassiff R. Tupas, Inquirer Visayas

SAN JOSE DEL CITY—MEETS ITS HOPES FOR A FIFTH CONSECUTIVE UAAP CROWN dashed Saturday of suspension, La Salle's women's football team has brought its act to another virtual playground... the University Games.

The Lady Archers knocked their bid for an unprecedented eighth straight UniGames crown to reply, overpowering Xavier University of Cagayan de Oro, 12-0, yesterday.

Her strike from Fiona Markenzie and teammates Bernadett highlighted the flying start by La Salle, which is grouped with Xavier, a 6-1 winner over Silliman University.

La Salle responded for the 2006-07 season by the UAAP after the school finished the midfielder element in the women's football, is also seeing action in volleyball and women's basketball.

The La Salle cagebelles proved no strong for St. Louis University, 98-46, since day when their UAAP teams met a [illegible] tournament at the end of the field with dominating performances.

The Ilo Katrin's University Lady Tamaraws, who narrowly lost the UAAP crown to the Santo Tomas Tigresses, matched Silliman University 73-20, while the Lady Eagles whipped University of San Agustin, 79-47.

In women's volleyball, Santo Tomas, powered by 49 team member Mary Jane Balse and crowd favorite Desiree Tan, cruised to an easy 25-11, 25-19, 25-21 victory over Foundation University while La Salle beat University of Cebu, 25-11, 25-19, 25-17.

Host University of St. La Salle doubled Silliman University, 25-7, 25-11, 25-12.

In a rare surviving between the two teams in men's volleyball, College of St. Benilde overpowered University of the Philippines, 25-19, 25-20, 23-25, which knocks Santo Tomas walloped Ateneo de Davao, 25-16, 25-9, 25-22.

Men's basketball action saw two-time UniGames champion St. Francis of Assisi Town score a resounding 89-79 triumph over Dolor's University of San Agustin.

UISAA topped Mindanao State University, 89-77; Colegio de Sa. Pantaleon Concepcion thumped SLU, 93-71, and University of Iloilo trounced Holy Angel University.

Action in badminton, karate tennis and table tennis are going today while the medal-rich athletics and swimming competitions start Wednesday and Thursday respectively. With a report from Christian H. Tan

THREE: Ateneo Lady Eagles gang up on a University of San Agustin player

Asiad baseball stint in jeopardy

HALFHEARTED BASEBALL IS IN DANGER OF crashing out.

A little over a month before the start of the Asian Games, the Philippine Amateur Baseball Association has raised only enough money to take [illegible] to Doha, Qatar.

The team finishing of sailing into two cars [illegible] and Asiad president Hector Navarro. "This is a big commitment for us. I hope [illegible] will come soon."

Baseball is the only team sport on the 80 roster in the Asiad, set Dec. 1-15. Due to a tight delegation budget, however, the PABA can field no more hands to disaster-free zones.

There were 24 players and six officials in the original lineup, but Navarro was forced to cut the roster to 22, including 16 athletes.

Some members of the team, according to Navarro, went to the Philippine Sports Commission [illegible] for "at least a few sweaters and equipment" in the Asiad time.

Navarro said he distributed information letters to top companies but would not [illegible] a favorable response.

The baseball squad is scheduled to open the first baseball RP delegation's going on Qatar.

"That's better because we may have more time to prepare," said Navarro.

One of the coaches, Edgar Alden Reyes, said they are prepared to see their touchstart. Some fixture outlines.

The Philippines, which were all in six matches to take the SEAG gold medal last year, is ranked 28th in Asia. Japan is No. 1 in the region followed by Korea, Chinese Taipei and China.

Marc Anthony Reyes

Athletics' Go cries foul

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

"THIS IS VERY UNFAIR TO ME. ALL THESE are lies."

Tino said Go Teng Kok, the controversial president of the national athletics association, in denying reports about his alleged involvement in money to entertain the basketball maestros of the Philippines in the Philippine Olympic Committee.

"I never like this! to ask for the expulsion of the IAAF last year, as it wouldn't look good if I seek re-reinstatement," added Go, whose arrest fighter's arrest of scientist last kept him alive and locking in the highly political world of sports. He admitted, though, that he could be seen almost daily with business MVP secretary general Graham Lim, who is an old friend, for he showed that it is an entirely different matter.

"Graham is a longtime buddy" Go told this writer, "[illegible] is [illegible]."

A victim of POC politics, Go took some of his strongest and supposed supporters in the board Olympic body including some members of the senate, have been harshly unfair to him, were running him with disaster, especially when POC president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco formed a [illegible] to investigate his re-reinstatement as the IAAF [illegible] office since to [illegible] in the local Olympic family.

"There are other things to investigate. Why me?" he asked. "Up to now I have been serving as sports national. In the POC president. If I have anything against the policies of Mr. Cojuangco I will have to resign first. It's as simple as that."

On left there were no need for Cojuangco to throw a last-finding panel since all that the latter had to do was call him first and get his side. But regardless of the findings of the panel, Go said he would not be involved with the POC.

Aside from being president of the Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association and special assistant to Cojuangco, Go also holds various other positions in the local Olympic body namely, head of the POC awards and memorandums, chair of the rules and sports committee of the 2005 Southeast Asian Games and task force head of the team's Philippine delegation to the 2006 Asian Games.

Vindictiveness or nature. Go is ultimately outbacker and charmingly disarming. He has a thirst for helping his friends, many of whom are officials of various national sports associations. This is one compelling reason why he is one of the most sought after sacrificial officials in the POC.

Still, POC spokesperson Joey Natanauta originally ignored Go saying the Olympic body would rather focus on the country's preparations for the Doha Games than pay attention to the trouble-fortified by the track and field star.

After the POC expelled the IAAF in June last year, Cojuangco said he would rather resign as POC head than have the IAAF reinstated. As to [illegible] of the POC decision, the Philippine [illegible] basketball federation] suspended the Philippines from taking part in all its tournaments.

BRIEFLY NOTED: Red Bull coach Jong Uichico tried everything to keep owner-shooting Carlo Sumalinog from leaving, but the cross-[illegible] coach would be early more [illegible] time to [illegible] Miguel Beer. "Lardy could get a longer playing time at San Miguel which our outside's gone under our system," said team manager Tony Chua. In exchange for Lardy, Red Bull acquired Jeffrey Cariaso and Mark Isip and San Miguel's 2005 second round draft pick and 2006 first round pick. Tagaab is ranked No. 4 in this year's MVP balloting, another marquee player who gained from the trade was Rommel Adducul, who was first acquired by Red Bull from Lim-Ho Lee and their enhancer Ian Sangalang. Adducul is expected to play a more prominent role with the Brewmen as Danny Ildefonso is still ailing... Happy birthday to our esteemed friend Oberdan [illegible] who celebrates his [illegible] today.

SPORTSWATCH

RP BOOSTERS' OUTFITTER. Lorell Ogasa, president of Master Sports, distributor of Mizuno in the country, hands over a first ball to Philippine football federation president Johnny Romualdez as symbolic of the company's commitment to support the national team coming action in the Asian Football Championship Qualifier Tournament slated Nov. 12-28 in Burnhal City.

Larry's Cup comes off the wraps today

A FIELD OF [illegible] HORSES [illegible] TO [illegible] IN [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

DETROIT Tigers third baseman Brandon Inge slides, last task to tab St. Louis Cardinals Scott Spiezio at a bit during the first inning of Game 2 in the World Series. AP PHO

Durant tops Disney golf, ends 5-year title drought

ORLANDO—ARNOLD JOE DURANT, FIRED A bogey-free seven-under-par 65 to ease to a four-stroke win over Troy Matteson and Heath Slocum II at the Disney Classic on Sunday.

Durant, who has been enjoying superb form with a runner-up finish at the Southern Farm Bureau Classic (6-0) followed by 66th at the Greensboro Open, returned to the winner's circle for the first time in five years with a final total of 25-under 263.

Michael Jacobs can add Durant to his list of PGA Tour victims.

DURANT

Jacobs, who had a 54-hole lead at the Greensboro Open, got his first PGA Tour win last week at the Las Vegas Open, got his shot off to the best possible start with a hole-in-one at the 6th and looked poised to make it back-to-back wins.

However, he was unable to finish on that mark, finishing with a two-under 70 to collect his fourth top-10 finish in as many events.

Goldfish started his day a massive eight shots behind the leader but entered into contention with 30-under 62 to join Matteson on 33-under 267.

Batista's Austin Bean, who led through the first two rounds, settled for fourth when a two-over 74 on the last left him with a three-under 65, four shots behind Durant.

World number five Vijay Singh, the 2000 Disney champion, made a final-round charge with an eight-under 64 to get to 16-under 269 along with American Dustin Johnson (66), Mario Tiziani (67) and Nick Watney (68). Reuters

Rogers keys Tigers victory

DETROIT, MICHIGAN—KENNY ROGERS SUBDUED RED HOT TWO HITS IN eight dominant innings to become the oldest starting pitcher to win a World Series game in Detroit's 3-1 triumph over St. Louis here Tuesday.

The 41-year-old southpaw withstood cold, rain and sexual to befuddle Cardinal batters that Detroit coach scouted to collect before dispensing a single inning rally to even Major League Baseball's best offensive club at one of baseball's.

"It's a great feeling to come out here and do what you are capable of to help this team. This is what it's all about," Rogers said.

Rogers has thrown a combined 23 scoreless innings while allowing only seven hits in three playoff appearances, overwhelming the New York Yankees in round one and Oakland in the American League Championship Series.

"We've come to be in our minors in life has been very good for us all year long," Tigers manager Jim Leyland said. He's one of those guys that has that extra adrenaline. "But has worked for him."

The only longer playoff scoreless streak was by legend Christy Mathewson, who hurled 27 shutout innings in 1905 for the New York Giants.

"He no Christy Mathewson that's for sure. He had scoreless streaks before. I'm glad it's happening for us now. But I will never put myself in that category for sure."

Craig Monroe hit a solo home run in the first inning while Carlos Guillen doubled in one run and scored another after a triple to provide enough runs for the Tigers to win.

"To watch the way Kenny has gone out this post-season completely set. He has really been the rock of this team," Monroe said. "To see his emotion when he makes big plays, it makes you want to do the same thing."

Rogers threw 62 strikes in 99 pitches, striking out five while allowing only three walks before departing in the ninth inning for reliever Todd Jones, who nearly squandered all of Rogers' hard work before holding on for the victory.

KENNY Rogers pitches one for the ages. AP

"I thought we hit the ball better than our hits," Cardinals manager Tony La Russa said. "We should have gotten more with the contact we made but he pitched very well."

Jones was one strike from victory when Scott Rolen singled. Jones struck out a dozen save and scored on Jim Edmonds' double. Jones hit Preston Wilson with a pitch to load the bases but a hard liner Brandon ground out ended the game.

The series shifts to St. Louis for the next three games starting Tuesday. AFP

Complete Schedule and TOPS

GAME 1—DETROIT, St. Louis 265, 25, 8 1-3, 10, 2 (Rogers 1-0, 3.00), Game 2—Detroit at St. Louis, 6:15 PM, Game 3—St. Louis at Detroit, 8:30 PM, Game 4—St. Louis at Detroit, 8:30 PM, Game 5—St. Louis at Detroit, 8:30 PM, Game 6—St. Louis at Detroit, 8:30 PM, Game 7—St. Louis at Detroit, 8:30 PM

Summary

ROGER Federer. For the first night now. AP PHO

Federer slips past Sampras with Madrid Masters win

MADRID, SPAIN—ROGER FEDERER CALLED himself the best player in tennis.

Nobody can argue with him.

He's winning his first Madrid Masters title and 10th tournament of 2006 on Sunday, Federer is the first player to do the Open era to win 30 titles for three straight years.

"Well, I am the best right now," Federer said after beating 10th-seeded Fernando Gonzalez 7-5, 6-1, 6-4. "But in life you, I guess you never know enough if I break all the records there are, but there's a lot a long way to go."

Federer received ahead of Bibi Sampras with his 30th Masters series title—second only to Andre Agassi's 17.

Federer didn't drop a set in Madrid while winning his 19th straight match and third straight title. This month, Federer won the Japan Open after only losing his third consecutive US Open title in September.

Since the beginning of 2006, Federer has compiled a 227-21 record, with Friends Open champion Rafael Nadal the only player to have beaten him multiple times in that month.

At Madrid, he start from Lendl's 25-year mark of winning 90-plus matches in a row before a year. This year, he's reached the final in 34 of the 35 tournaments he entered, winning 29 of them.

Federer will finish the year ranked No. 1 for the third straight year, and his 1.63 weeks at the top since February 2004 trail only Ivan Lendl (157) and Jimmy Connors (160) since computer rankings began in 1973, another record he could surpass in 2007.

His 62nd career title left him 12th in the list of Open era career titles, two behind Guillermo Vilas (49), Rod Laver (47) and Boris Becker (49). AP

Alonso keeps crown 15 minutes into race

SAO PAULO, BRAZIL—FERNANDO Alonso successfully mounted his second Formula One championship bandy 15 minutes into the Brazilian Grand Prix.

He didn't know only his team was pulling him to turn down the power of his engine to only to Sunday's race.

Then he went busted out 46-only first for the world title, Michael Schumacher, passed on to the second spot to last.

Alonso retained the championship when he was second to Felipe Massa in the season finale which also marked the end of Schumacher's eight-year career.

"The important thing today and to become champion again for the second time and we did it," Alonso said. "Yes, it has been a fantastic weekend... enjoy today because."

Schumacher, in a season-time Ferrari, crossed to win his final race before retirement to keep alive his remote chance of another title. But the Germans punctured a tire less than 10 laps in, dropped out of contention and drove out five subsequent.

"That we been celebrating for several but I didn't feel any content. The only thing I really felt was my last weekend," Schumacher said.

Alonso shared about a three between: "Well, first of all they told me to drop the revs," he said. "Then they said he was back in 19th."

Massa, Schumacher's Ferrari teammate, runs the race from the pole to win. Rookie Lewis Hamilton crossed at the McLaren-Mercedes.

His second career victory was also the fourth consecutive last race before Sunday in 1993. "I think it is a dream come true, I always dream to have this day," Massa said. "And I got it.

Ronaldo's Jenson Button was third.

As soon as Alonso crossed by finish line, the Spaniard climbed his scarf over the rails on French Renault's supporters are built in Fernnel and English. The team is based in Britain's. He helped Renault take clinch the constructors' title but will race for McLaren next year. AP

MICHAEL Schumacher. World's greatest race-winning Formal loser. AP

Schumacher crosses finish line

SAO PAULO, BRAZIL—MICHAEL Schumacher, his family and his friends heard the Ferrari driver's media have been Sunday as the Brazilian Grand Prix brought down the curtain on Formula One's most memorable racing career.

The 37-year-old German finds himself in a life that viewed from inside the cockpit is now of a his lifetime into the world's greatest race-winning Ferrari car. He went out to cap his 249th and last race.

Despite starting from 10th place, he finished in fourth—two overtaking to only pass those which used four tires instead of the five allowed.

Schumacher had spent domains of turbos screamed as competitors in his own car, in the back of the Ferrari garage, wrapped in mementos in the 6,000 minutes of the last qualifying session of his F1,500 in a broken-lamp clustered any hopes he had of repeating as world race DHL.

Running he had little chance of victory, he gave his family mementos Felipe Massa full looking to aim for glory on home soil.

Massa won the race but the title went again to Fernando Alonso, the 25-year-old Spanish driver from Oviedo, a man Schumacher recognised as his successor.

Massa, a handsome 25-year-old local boy started on pole, a position he claimed for only the third time in his career and which he acknowledged belonged to the people of Brazil in general and his Polish in particular.

All week of talking the title away from Alonso, in a race run from Massa, was launched from Schumacher's mind—but that was no signal that he would race without regard for business competitive instinct is still to win. AFP

'Speedster' Sharapova humbles Hantuchova

ZURICH, SWITZERLAND—MARIA Sharapova knew speed does not only achieve victory. She hits it with, and running on four, or anything else Hantuchova does not down.

So it really got her speed when she surged through an easy first set against Daniela Hantuchova in Sunday's Final of the Zurich Open, but melted in a sluggish, error-filled second set.

Then earned the Russian's levels of frustration—and opposition—enough to spur her into quickly breaking Hantuchova in the third set to win 6-1, 4-6, 6-3 and end a hot 14th career title, and fourth this year.

"I like it when things go fast," Sharapova said, shifting her seat at the post-match press conference, which she also seemed to have invaded early and often.

Especially when she was faced with the pesky question of why she'd frequently called on hitting partner Mike Bryan for advice during her matches here, after saying earlier in the week she doesn't support the idea of on-court coaching and would only count for if "desperate."

"Well, I don't support it, but it's fun and I feel I need a little input sometimes for why not?" she said. "If

TRIUMPH. Sharapova celebrates her Zurich Open Final victory. AP

14,000 chessers post world mark

MEXICO CITY—MEXICO CITY'S LARGEST square was jammed Sunday with some 14,000 chess players who claimed a new Guinness record for the largest number of simultaneously played games. As many dressed up in ties, that made in many were turned away from Mexico's El Zocalo square. 25,000 were registered, but only 14,005 could form the whole square.

"We expected about 13,000 players and we have 23,000 registered," said Eliseo Alcalde, Mexico's secretary of sport. "We have broken the Guinness record." Organizers said the effort topped the record Caribbean island of Aruba's 1,700 players, set in nearby Palmera, Rivalers in June, 2005.

However, they must await confirmation before the Guinness Records will be awarded, as they record-breaking attempt. AFP

SPORTS

Jao zeroes in on Superbikes season sweep

JOLLY! Jao Rivera is after passing erstwhile leader Wacky del Rosario with two laps to go in Race 1B at the Batangas Racing Circuit.

ROLANDO BAYANGOS—DEFENDING CHAMPION JOLLY JAO OF SHELL ADVANCE diamond trounced a step closer to a season sweep with two victories in the OBS leg on Sunday of the 2006 Shell Advance Superbikes Series-San Miguel Corbyc Road Racing Championship at the Batangas Racing Circuit.

The series sweep was the fifth in a row for Jao, who is gunning for his 10th Superbikes crown in the event sanctioned by the National Motorcycle Sports and Safety Association (Namoss).

But Jao had to wrench out from the fine at Wacky del Rosario of Petron Blaze parked him off the rest after the exit of Armed challenger Benjo Mendoza of Speedoffice due to engine problems.

After ending Race 9 without incident in search of an other, Jao trailed an pulled leader Del Rosario who held the lead in the next circuit for seven-tenth lap.

Jao, tested by Del Rosario's defensive cunning line, finally made his move with just two laps left, recording a big class in the fourth lap to avoid the lead for good. He finished with a time/time of 30:31.201.

Del Rosario, who posted the fastest lap time of 1:47.278, clocked in 31:00 seconds later. Julian Ocdin settled for third place in both races.

Neil Cleo sustained a shoulder injury in an accident in the Underbone class and failed to raise the Superbikes race.

John Diego ruled the four-stroke class while John Debuena, nephew of Jon Abraham Santiago, swept the Open Level division over Harold Pua and third placer Oliver Chua.

Ocdin Pallarcon and Mikee Bunch also posted sweeps in their respective divisions in the Ten-Big Coffee Road Racing Championship.

Pallarcon topped the RBC Formula 400 class while Bunch dominated the RBC Service 400 class over Geoffrey Agudanda.

Ochoa, Garcia capture Shell Active chess national titles

EARL VICTOR OCHOA SCORED 6.5 POINTS in the last five rounds, including a final-round win over Vic-Ged Villanueva, to bag the juniors crown while the first-seeded Gracel Ivan Dy recorded three upset Florida Bueno in the tiebreak to nab the ladders division in the grand finale on Sunday of the third National Youth Active Chess Championships at SM North Edsa.

The seventh-seeded Ochoa beat John Shiff Arellano in the fifth round before gaining a share of the lead with an upset of second-seeded Nelson Mariano II in the sixth round.

The Bulacan State University standout seized the sole lead in the penultimate round as Mariano fell again, this time to Gilly Jay Mendoza. That enabled Ochoa to storm ahead with 5.5 points despite a draw with GM Rogen Pamintil.

Ochoa then vanquished Villanueva in the final round to finish with 7.5 points. He won the champion's trophy and P50,000 cash.

Pamintil beat Mariano in the final round to finish with 6.5, then edged Mariano in the tiebreak to take second prize worth P25,000.

Mariano settled for the P15,000 third prize finishing on the top 10 finishers in the juniors division, ian Barrios, 6.5; Calvaria, Jewrell Andoy, Jhein Durano, all with 5.5 apiece; Arellano, Villanueva and Ben Alvarez, all with 5.0 each.

Ten-year-old Mac Dominique Laguio of Iloilo Pilot Central School, Darren Vicente took the top Bantal award in the youngest bracket.

Garcia, who swept the first four games in the 14-under class, settled for three draws on Sunday, lost to Jude Pineda, before beating Pamintil in the final round to finish with 6.5 points.

Pineda also wound up with 6.5 points. But Garcia took the champion's trophy and TOCADO in the tiebreaks. Pineda settled for P15,000.

Jerick Cajoras finished with 6 points then edged Pamintil and Pineda to claim third place honors worth P10,000. Pamintil wound up fourth followed by Pineda, Cobar, Jesse Lacerna, Jacquess Lennon Delgados and Peter Dyrill.

They're not the fast and furious, all right, but . . .

ROLAND Hontoria (right) with PSA Team members (from left) Quinto Pinlayo, Carlosa of Bikoos and Reyes of the Inquirer before the race.

FOR MORE THAN THREE HOURS ON SUNday, nothing else existing the captain of the team's racing men had the time of their lives being their fantasies—they raced, while the men and women they rather almost watched from the sidelines, cajoling them on from the pits.

The marathon fun ride was not the powerful Astro Formula. There was no go-karts, more than enough to give them a high, the big the 400 Touring Challenge at The Fort's Speedway track.

The scribes, including members of the Philippine Sportswriters Association, gave it a go, with driving stars, among them Dodo Pefia, Tonee Ty and Bryan Monroy, acting as their coaches.

Hontoria, the 2005 400 champion, had the biggest grin when the night was over, sporting bragging rights after his team, SPE Motorol Magazine, led by Modon Hontiveros, won the race ahead of Bikoos and Reyes of the Inquirer.

Second place went to the Otto-Solar Sports team of Eric Caramello that completed 171 laps, just one lap better than the team of harassing hospitality TV Manila Bulletin. Fourth went to the Motorcross PC Magazine-Action team of Michael Buenaventura, while The Circle CD, Mobil-Big Shot Billiards team of Gaby dela Merced finished fifth.

"I can only hope the scribes have caught the driving bug," said MO Corp. chair Eddie Neja.

The exciting challenge served as a prelude to the AFO Street Circuit on Friday at the SM Mall of Asia where Chi hoarding drivers of the scribes-bragging circle will display their driving skills.

Roland Hontoria's TSN Team, which included Alden Cardona, Jude Monreal, Mark Anthony Reyes, Anton Arroyo, Aaron Jacquias and Jovanni Abuan, finished eighth.

Dare to make
it an Inquirer.
INQUIRER

BUSINESS

Editor Raul D. Marcelo • Assistant Editor Connie S. Nemeno

Stock market marks highest close in 9 years

Another milestone crossed as traders extend buying

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

STOCKS CLIMBED TO ITS HIGHEST FINISH IN MORE than nine years, buoyed by extended buying from last week, record highs from Wall Street, and bets of better third quarter earnings, fund managers said yesterday.

The Philippine Stock Exchange index (PSEi) rose 4.11 points or 0.35 percent to 2,025.52, having traded in a range between 2,014.88 and 2,032.91.

It was its best finish since it closed at 2,372.43 points on Aug. 11, 1997, the PSE said in a statement yesterday.

The broader all-share index rose 5.10 points to 1,613.66.

This is the fourth day the PSEi has climbed north.

Value turnover hit P17 billion with gainers beating losers 50 to 46. Total foreign buying hit P12.94 billion, while total foreign selling was P2.69 billion.

At overall, net foreign buying was P259 million.

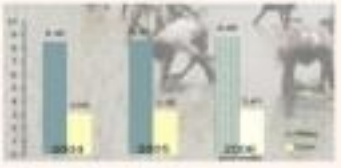
"The regional markets have been very strong in line with the Dow Jones all time highs, so I think the majority markets have been pricing in a possible slowdown in the US and, therefore, if they are discounting a soft landing, they are expecting a possible recovery," said Neal Joseph Garcia, chief investment officer at BG Investment Management.

Having broken the 2,000-point barrier, the market is now expected to con-

TODAY B2

INQUIRER MONITOR

Palay and corn production estimates up
Likely December 2006-2008, in million metric tons



IN THIS ISSUE

Dow breaks 12,000; Phisix breaches 2,600 /B2

With banks still awash with cash, T-bill rates decline

By Michelle V. Rosca

TREASURY BILL RATES DECLINED across the board yesterday with the benchmark 91-day bills dropping for the first time in five auctions, amid high market liquidity and prospects of lower-than-programmed budget deficit in the year.

The three-month government security finished 5.669 percent, or 0.8 basis points lower than the 5.451 percent recorded in the last auction two weeks ago.

About P5.219 billion worth of bids came in for the three-month bill, even though the government's debt offering was only P2 billion per T-bill issue.

The 182-day bills finished 3.771 percent, dropping by 1.9 percent from its previous rate of 3.79 percent. The six-month security was over-subscribed as well, with bids reaching an even higher P3.71 billion.

The 364-day bills was the most attractive for the market, with bids hitting P7.79 billion. The rate for the one-year instrument is 6.335 percent, 0.4 percent lower than the previous rate of 6.713 percent.

National Treasurer Omar Cruz said

MORE B2

Dow breaks 12,000; Phisix breaches 2,600

ASIA, CORE ANNOUNCES THAT IT HAS sold its stake in HERGEN HDG. So, it is not a spelling mistake.

PAL has just ordered eight wide-bodies Airbuses just to accommodate my wife. I had better be careful, she has started reading my articles.

I don't know if it is true, but someone told me that there is a place called SEMMAH between Angeles City and Subic. Is this true?

Boots' cause to my heart. I asked the tellers to check my balance and she gave me a peso.

And don't concentrate hospital either, as the chief surgeon is rather than DR. BOLTIE. He is nearly 75 but his hands and eyes are still good. The only problem is that he doesn't have any—well.

A newlywed came in for an appendectomy and got a nasty-looking. Brian scissor was on. 11 year old boy asks nurse to be his circumcised and was circumcised. He is only 10 years old which is the reason he act half grown.

I read recently that love is entirely a matter of chemistry. That is why my wife treats me like today's chemist.

Some readers have asked me the secret of our long marriage. We take time to go to a good restaurant twice a week, a little candlelight, dinner, soft music and dancing. She goes Tuesdays, I go Fridays. Marching Instructor: and 20+ years, I don't worry about separation. My wife and I were happy for 20 years. Then we met.

A British company received a huge order from Saudi Arabia for bidets (big, tax-deductible dick. The government was delighted until they realized that what many Islamic dogs like for their teeth is impaled.

The DOW finally broke the elusive 12,000 border after a struggle lasting six years. Most of the media announced on the hour have known anybody' opportunities. Outstanding were 3M with profits up 47 percent, and GOOGLE whose profits almost doubled. Its shares rose $33 on Friday.

EMKOR did not fare so well and is trying to catch up but there has a formidable task as GOOGLE continues to expand into new areas. Chipmakers were affected by price cuts and intense competition between INTEL and AMD. The only chipmaker to be unaffected was PHISIXES.

Not all the news was good. The Producers' Price index rose by 0.6 percent, far above the 0.2 percent expected. The worse than expected rise either puts the brighter rate cut to the coronation, which is unfortunate, or absorb it, which would adversely affect profit margins unless offset by increased tech. Choices.

The Consumer Price index came in at 0.2 percent for the third consecutive month. This is acceptable because it is equivalent to 2.4 percent a year, slightly above BERNANKE's target of 2 percent. Housing starts surprised everyone but's rising from 1,610,000 to 1,751,000 so September so there is no sign of a housing led recession.

Jamestown are being called into a fake sense of security and some are contemplating a rate cut by the FED exactly to suit Annan's. I think they are as for a big disappointment. I am certain there will be no change in the rate at the next meeting on Nov. 2 because BERNANKE would not do anything immediately ahead of the mid-term election in which Republican Banks is likely to lose control of one House or even both.

His predecessor GREENSPAN was always careful not to do a set hike that might be seen abroad as political. But after the mid-term election, I would not be shocked if there was a rate hike.

A personal message to BERNANKE. Do not like your whiskers and would ask he. I will ask like G7 to send you a G3 razor and I recommend you to get rid of the mustache.

The PHISIX, after moving sideways for nearly 6 three weeks, eventually broke out of its trading range. If it stays above the 2,600 level of the 3rd quarter results, which are yet to be released theoretically speaking, they are expected to be good and on a Price Earnings ratio of 14.5. The market is not expensive but if the results fall short of expectations, there will be a correction.

Generally speaking, stocks go up two weeks before the results and down after. stands to it is usually right to sell the day before. This is not the case this time as in all countries because a large bull position is built up and it needs new buyers to push prices up further.

Often, there are not enough new buyers so the stock goes down even if the results were very good. The only exception are when there are unexpected stock dividends or valuable special dividends.

Other Asian markets were strong and are to right of a six year high. CITIC has decided on a cut of 1.2 million barrels a day, slightly more than anticipated, but US inventories are 14 percent above the five-year average so crude oil fell below $57 cleared.

As commodities follow the oil price it will don't know what, gold is down again after breaching $650 an ounce. Remember that stocks follow the trend price, you have to be on your mettle.

BHC has a line up with Bangkok and land sales of 200 million baht from small wholesale boutiques and 8 tat jars.

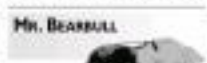
PAXTE has acquired three companies so he pays your taxes operation. $20 is expected to operations and how he's 5,200 stocks 46. Jessing for the right issue at 38, anyone who followed my BUY recommendation has now multiplied his or her capital 8 times. I expect HBSBZ to start outrunning shortly otherwise they will sell to Jesus Holding.

There is a good IPO coming out shortly. I can't mention it by name but it sounds Fishy.

I will not return next Tuesday, as readers will either be in the countries or in the provinces. I will offer no recipes for the week so I will wish you all the following week.

mr.bearbull@email.com

MR. BEARBULL



Rene Nollora

Smart urged to go public

By Ricz F. Chuboreles

THE NATIONAL TELECOMMS. taxation Commission has asked Smart Communications Inc., the country's leading mobile phone company, to explain why it has failed to go public.

The NTC reminded Smart in a letter sent last August that it has not complied with a provision of The Public Telecommunications Policy Act requiring telecommunications companies to sell part of their shares to the public.

Under Smart's franchise, it was supposed to conduct an initial public offering not later than August 2004.

Smart president Napoleon Nazareno, however, said earlier that the telco once considered a conduct an IPO and that it does not need NTC's approval to postpone the offering offer.

Smart legal chief Rogelio V. Quevedo added in a September 22 letter that the franchise provision regarding IPOs for telecommunications companies

"We possibly a request under RA 7294 for any failure to conduct offering of shares within the stated period," the letter said.

The letter also said that the "spirit" of RA 7294 was already being fulfilled by PLDT's full ownership of Smart.

"Since PLDT is the most widely held public telecommunications company in the Philippines, both in terms of common and preferred shares, the most policy of encouraging public ownership of both PLDT and Smart to their ultimate names possible is already been achieved," the letter said.

"Through Smart and PLDT ultimately have separate and distinct personalities, what needs to be kept in mind is that your Smart is a wholly-owned subsidiary of PLDT, the shareholders of PLDT are effectively the substantial owners of Smart," it said.

Quevedo also said Smart's decision to defer its public listing was taken mainly by prudentially acceptable business considerations.

NTC Commissioner Ronaldo D. Solis was not convinced.

"Ah, have brought this matter several times to attention of Smart's counsel, but they have it up," he said. "I have advised the [NTC] legal department to study the letter and see what course of action we will take."

RCBC raises $100M to boost capital base

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

RIZAL COMMERCIAL BANKING Corp., the country's sixth largest bank, raised a total of $100 million from its hybrid perpetual securities issue.

Hybrid securities are debt instruments with characteristics similar to equities or shares of stock.

The bank's offering is disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday that the hybrid perpetual securities issue was part of RCBC's efforts to raise capital in anticipation of the more stringent requirements under Basel II.

Basel II refers to the second round of deliberations of central bankers worldwide under the auspices of the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision (BCBS) in Basel, Switzerland.

The deliberations aim at boosting about uniformity in the way banks and banking regulators approach risk management.

RCBC said proceeds of the issue would be used for "general corporate purposes."

RCBC's debt offer was also oversubscribed with the international debenture participation from Asia and Europe with strong participation from banks (38 percent, asset managers (36 percent) and private banks (26 percent).

Citigroup and Credit Suisse acted as joint bookrunners and lead managers for the deal.

The Bangko Sentral earlier approved the bank's application to issue up to $150 million in hybrid securities.

The bank said Standard & Poor's Rating Services has assigned a "CCC" rating to its proposed hybrid Tier 1 securities.

S&P said debt rated "CCC" is rather likely to speculative and is dependent upon favorable business, financial and economic conditions for the issuer to meet its financial obligations.

The latter also said that the "spirit" of RA 7294 was already being fulfilled by PLDT's full ownership of Smart.

"Since PLDT is the most widely held public telecommunications company in the Philippines, both in terms of common and preferred shares, the most policy of encouraging public ownership of both PLDT and Smart to their ultimate names possible is already been achieved," the letter said.

"Through Smart and PLDT ultimately have separate and distinct personalities, what needs to be kept in mind is that your Smart is a wholly-owned subsidiary of PLDT, the shareholders of PLDT are effectively the substantial owners of Smart," it said.

Quevedo also said Smart's decision to defer its public listing was taken mainly by prudentially acceptable business considerations.

NTC Commissioner Ronaldo D. Solis was not convinced.

"Ah, have brought this matter several times to attention of Smart's counsel, but they have it up," he said. "I have advised the [NTC] legal department to study the letter and see what course of action we will take."

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Name and address of Company/Employer | Name of Foreign National | Position

[illegible] | [illegible] | Manager

[illegible] | [illegible] | Chairman of the Board and President

[illegible] | [illegible] | Marketing Manager

[illegible] | [illegible] | Director / Representative

[illegible] | [illegible] | Business Development Manager

[illegible] | [illegible] | Finance Analytics Head

[illegible] | [illegible] | Consultant

[illegible] | [illegible] | Managing Director

[illegible] | [illegible] | General Manager

[illegible] | [illegible] | Consultant

[illegible] | [illegible] | Sales Manager

[illegible] | [illegible] | Japanese Language Consultant

[illegible] | [illegible] | Director

[illegible] | [illegible] | Technician

[illegible] | [illegible] | General Manager

LOURDES M. TRAJANO
Regional Director

Napocor taps foreign banks for $700-M bond issue

Proceeds to be used to pay off or refinance debts

By Abigail L. Ho

JOSE RIZAL NATIONAL POWER Corp. has tapped foreign banks Citigroup and Deutsche Bank AG as joint bookrunners for the state firm's proposed bond offer, the proceeds of which will be used to cover some of its outstanding debts this year.

The bonds will be unconditionally and irrevocably guaranteed by the Republic of the Philippines," Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. (PSALM) yesterday said. "The proposed transaction will be unsecured note, subject to market conditions."

PSALM noted that the transaction was not an offer of securities for sale in the United States. It said that there was no intention to register any portion of the proposed offering in the US or to conduct public offering there.

Following the Ranjit-headed ng Pilipinas' approval in late August of a P700-million foreign bond issuance by Napocor, PSALM president Reuven Dizon said the government privatization body would proceed with the issuance of the debt paper this month.

Dizon said part of the proceeds from the borrowing would be used to pay off or refinance Napocor's maturing debts for the year.

In September, some P3.92 billion (P77.2 million in debt matured. An other P3.2 billion ($63.3 million) are due this month.

Around $200 million would cover part of the biggest bond, which Napocor re-issued in in 1995, and would be maturing late this year, she said.

Another $300 million would likely be earmarked for other debts, particularly those that the national government may not absorb.

The indicated government securities market assumed P200 billion of Napocor's debt—the most it could absorb under RA 9136 or the Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001, Elgvist.

Dizon said a number of entities had already expressed willingness to lend to PSALM on behalf of Napocor.

"We've gotten a lot of inquiries," she had said earlier.

Napocor last year borrowed nearly $900 million to finance its maturing obligations, as well as its capital expenditures and general fund requirements.

Around $300 million of that came from six-year floating rate notes, which were issued to the Singapore offshore unit.

Fitch Ratings yesterday affirmed the rating of the $300-million notes at 'BB' with a stable outlook.

The notes, which bear interest based on the three-month US dollar London Interbank Offered Rate, have plus 425 basis points, also carry an unconditional and irrevocable government guarantee.

Initially offered in data at $300 million, the final issue was pulled up to $300 million due to strong investor response. It was oversubscribed by $200 million in Asia, Europe and Hong Kong investors.

The rating pertains to the timely payment of interest and the ultimate payment of principal of the notes upon maturity in 2011. With a report from Reuters

Relief moods

...

If you check out the website of the Philippine Stock Exchange (www.pse.com.ph), you will learn that the United States government donated $100,000 to victims of typhoon "Milenyo".

Which is probably much more than I can say for me personally.

The website in fact shows PSEC chair Sec. Richard Gordon with US Ambassador Earle Romney carrying bails during the recent mission to Aliw and Senagan.

Nice work, according to the website, the donation is bound for the Quezon province which, unknown to many of us, was also heavily damaged by the typhoon.

Good for us guys that the damage caused by the typhoon is worse than originally reported, even worse than the landfall over Catanduanes. Southern Luzon and the super typhoon that hit its provinces in the 2004 combined.

That is quite a revelation and, coming from the PSEC, one I can readily believe it. To donate, please do not call me. You only call the PSEC Fund Generation Department at 727-0000 local 104 or log on to the PSEC website.

...

Still in the mood, but this time in a private citizen, for delivering truckloads of relief goods to calamity victims, former congressman Mark Jimenez a claiming that he is now a changed man.

Jimenez made the claim recently during the national convention of the 5,000-strong Lapu-Lapu Mga Barangay, which concluded in Cebu City.

He said that the change took place during the two-year imprisonment in the United States, particularly whenever he spent time in the "isolation chamber" for getting money to other Filipino inmates, which happened often.

Well, come to think of it, Jimenez does seem to gained for giving money. He was published convicted. He did not go to jail for stealing money or something. For that matter, in this country, those who steal never get caught, right?

Anyway, Jimenez said that he has forgiven those who have done him wrong. Does he list to thank, say, former Justice Secretary Hernando Perez, who was fired by the late administration precisely in connection with the Jimenez case?

With his mood for charity—such as, going to calamity and disaster areas to give away goods and cash, and helping misunderstand plan holders of government corporations through a P70 million donation—Jimenez is stretching not just a little closer.

The question that people usually ask him is, well, what public position is he going to run for next year. And his reply is, "why should I want to be a politician?"

Jimenez says the simple truth is that he is returning to God.

Besides, if things go as planned under the new administration, we are not going to have elections next year.

With banks ...

From page B1

ate decline in T-bill rates still had to do with the banks' being awash with cash. Ink said that there were P11 billion worth of government securities that matured last week and another P2.4 billion matures this week, thus boosting up the banks' cash holdings.

The Treasury at the Treasury's auction comprising an accepted P6 billion worth of bids, P2 billion per tenor, thus raising in full the scheduled five-, seven- and 10-year bonds' auction.

Stock market ...

From page B1

solidate at a higher level, according to Honey Agada of DA Market Securities.

Fitzgerald Arias, head of strategy at RBS Trust, said that investors are also positioning ahead of better third quarter earnings from last year due to earnings gains.

Victor Gomez, head of trading at SOC Trust Securities Inc. said that, although the market is optimistic, it is also cautious about the upcoming Bangko Sentral monetary board meeting on Nov. 2, when it will unveil the fate of local interest rates.

Top-traded Philippine long Distance Telephone (PSE: TEL) at P2,288, while property developer Megaworld was unchanged at P3.14.

San Miguel A and B shares traded flat at P66.50 and P77.50, respectively.

The market will be closed Tuesday for a public holiday. With a report from AFP

HP BladeSystem Accelerate IT! Basic Bundle
FOUR HP PROLIANT BL465C SERVERS
₱770,000
FREE! Rack with 42 Hublib Manager
FREE! HP BladeSystem administration training (5 days)

Leave your IT worries behind.
Presenting the HP ProLiant BladeSystem – your IT consolidation system. Engineered for enterprise level performance and scalability.
The new HP ProLiant BL465c BladeSystem with AMD Opteron™ processor combines server, storage, power, and network resources into one advanced management framework. This integration improves collaboration processes and provides maximum flexibility with the help of a wide choice of tools, solutions and support. With this system, speed more time growing your business without worrying about leaving your server behind. Get enterprise level performance while leaving your IT worries to us.

HP PROLIANT DL385 G2
₱220,000
FREE! Additional 1GB Memory
FREE! 1 unit 72GB 10K Hard Disk Drive

HP PROLIANT DL585 G2
₱515,000
FREE! Additional 1GB Memory
FREE! 1 unit 72GB 10K Hard Disk Drive

AMD 64 Opteron

1-800-1441-6688
or (632) 867-3557
ph.contact@hp.com
www.iloveproliant.com.ph

hp invent

BUSINESS

Net borrowings 50% lower than target

Loans contracted in 9 mos. reached ₱489.3 billion, while debt payments hit ₱386.5 billion

By Michelle V Ramos

THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT'S nine-month net borrowings—the total funds it has contracted less payments for maturing obligations—stood lower than the ceiling set for the period, as the improving fiscal climate gave it flexibility to service more liabilities than the government had.

Data from the Department of Finance showed that net borrowings reached only ₱489.3 billion as of end-September, much lower than the ₱722 billion ceiling officially set by fiscal authorities for the period. The programmed projection for the full-year deficit might be only ₱200 billion, or against the ceiling of ₱125 billion.

The lower-than-programmed deficit in January to September was attributed to streamlined spending due to the reenactment of the 2005 National Budget and the higher-than-expected revenue collection.

Of the total gross borrowings during the nine-month period, ₱472.339 billion came from foreign creditors and government securities investors, while ₱16.9.995 billion came from domestic investors and creditors.

The government earlier adopted a policy that favors domestic borrowings and lessens the country's dependence on foreign borrowings.

The full-year gross borrowing program for 2006 has a domestic-foreign mix of 58:42 in favor of domestic. This means that ₱510.211 billion will be borrowed from domestic sources and ₱321.429 billion will come from foreign lenders.

The government was targeting to reduce its foreign liabilities to the lowest possible level as soon as possible to reduce the country's exposure to foreign exchange risks.

Of the total gross borrowings during the nine-month period, ₱472.339 billion came from foreign creditors and government securities investors, while ₱16.9.995 billion came from domestic investors and creditors.

The government earlier adopted a policy that favors domestic borrowings and lessens the country's dependence on foreign borrowings.

The full-year gross borrowing program for 2006 has a domestic-foreign mix of 58:42 in favor of domestic. This means that ₱510.211 billion will be borrowed from domestic sources and ₱321.429 billion will come from foreign lenders.

NEW ZEALAND Ambassador David Pen (right) receives from Tourism Secretary Joseph H. Durano (left) a copy of Welcome to the Philippines, a coffee table book on the major attractions in the country. The ambassador, during a recent visit to the DOT office, invited Durano to the New Zealand Trade Council Meeting to present the tourism department's marketing programs.

7.0% FIXED GUARANTEED TAX FREE
Open a PSBank Prime Time Deposit now!
• affordable for a minimum of PhP 50,000
• 3-year placement
• Enjoy monthly interest earnings
Get it now at any PSBank branch.
PSBank Prime Time Deposit

2 hotel giants keen on RP retirement sector

By Reena FP. Domingo

THE HYATT AND HILTON GROUPS, TWO OF the world's largest hotel operators, are keen on investing in the country's retirement industry, according to Philippine Economic Authority Chair Edgardo Aglipay.

Aglipay said he had met with Global Hyatt Corp. and Hilton Hotels officials during a personal tour in the United States and that he was informed of the two groups' plan to send teams to the country to survey the market.

Aglipay and officials of the private-sector Philippine Retirement Inc. visited Honolulu, San Diego, Los Angeles, Reno, Chicago, Fort Lauderdale and Washington DC to encourage Filipino-Americans and other US citizens to spend their retirement years in the Philippines.

PRI and PEA are into an aggressive campaign to make the Philippines the choice retirement destination in Asia.

"Officials of the two hotel groups are scheduled to visit in December or January to look at what resources are available here," he said.

Aglipay said PRI was offering to Hyatt and Hilton the enrolment of government-owned and -controlled entities, such as the Philippine Tourism Authority, Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp., Bases Conversion Development Authority, Government Service and Insurance System and Social Security System.

"Many OFAmen have expressed interest in going back to the Philippines to retire there, but they fear that the facilities and services here may not be comparable to what are available in the US," he said.

Aglipay said the prospective retirees had expressed concerns over healthcare facilities not being modern; security issues; sub-standard public utilities; and being victimized by unscrupulous property developers and marketers.

Investors, for their part, are worried over uncertainties in policies and land ownership issues.

Aglipay said that in addition to those concerns, DBA and DOT were setting standards for housing, healthcare and other services, working with various agencies for better privileges and services for retirees as well as incentives for investors getting more hospitals severally with the Joint International Health Commission and making some consumer a promotion instrument.

There would be about a billion seniors worldwide by 2015 and the local industry hopes to entertain a million of them to retire in the Philippines.

The Chicago-based Global Hyatt Corp. owns 215 hotels and resorts in 40 countries around the world.

Hilton Hotels Corp. has about 2,900 hotels in at least 86 countries, including Hilton Cebu Resort & Spa in Mactan Island.

GATEWAY Garden Heights
Enjoy the Convenience OF LIVING BESIDE THE Mall
Nothing makes condo living a greater privilege than being beside everything you need. At Gateway Garden Heights, living, working and enjoyment are right at your doorstep. Enjoy Gateway Garden Heights' convenient location beside Robinsons Place Pioneer Mall. Strategically located along EDSA and MRT, this self-contained community is your gateway to prominent Business Districts like Ortigas, Makati and Fort Bonifacio Global City.
Get the most out of condo living. Enjoy the lifestyle community with all that you can have in Gateway Garden Heights.
Come and Join our OPEN HOUSE
October 28
10AM - 6PM
Gateway Garden Heights
MODEL UNITS
3F Robinsons Place Pioneer Mall
ROBINSONS LAND CORPORATION
The Property Developer of Choice
636-0888
0922-8380888

Mirant to release employees' 13th-month pay this week

By Abigail L. Ho

EVEN BEFORE THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR and Employment can make its move, the management of Atlantic Grand Mirant Corp., via the head of its Philippine operations, has committed to consider the separation policy and release the 13th-month pay of employees this week.

"We have announced the new separation policy, which is on the rate of the most generous in the Philippines, and we are just putting the finishing touches to it. It can't be done overnight since we have to follow internal procurement and work on the details as well. But this is done deal," Mirant Philippine Corp. chair, president and chief executive Jose Lorilla said.

Mirant Philippines corporate employee representatives Arnel Bellot, Mario Jesse Jr. Reyes and Rodolfo Jesus Fidel Fidez filed three separate petitions urging the DOLE to intervene in a "protracted labor dispute" arising from the sale of the American firm's Philippine assets.

They claimed that the company's management failed to provide them with a retrenchment program that would protect their interests since Mirant had sold its Philippine holdings.

Employees are seeking the formalization of a policy that will guarantee a severance pay of 2.5 months' salary for every year of service. While Mirant Philippines is already practicing this, there is no formal policy covering it.

Lorilla said the formalization of the severance pay practice would take place within the week.

"Our separation policy will give 2.5 months for every year of service. A year's service is based on 14 months' salary plus short-term incentive bonus and a rice allowance. Therefore, the base for 2.5 months is significantly higher than the law's requirement that it be based only on one month's salary," he said.

"The employees are already getting the best there is. A few of them want more, including getting the separation pay while remaining employed and accepting the $54-million package for 125 executives of Mirant all over the world as an example of social distribution," he added.

In their DOLE petition, employees also accused Mirant of racial discrimination as it had committed to grant a $54-million bonus to 125 US employees for the sale of the American power firm's overseas assets.

But Lorilla said this $54-million package was hinged on "heavy conditions including meeting certain price targets for the sale of businesses in and out of the US."

He said the executives should also stay with Mirant until June 2006.

"There are conditions as well to make it the price targets and other conditions are not met. On the other hand, the local separation packages are already cast in stone," he said.

The employees also accused management of trying "in pain to hinder to the potential new owners of the coal plant by refusing to release the employees' 13th-month pay, which are usually released every October.

Lorenzo said the employees' 13th-month pay would be released within the week.

DBP sells bad assets worth ₱9.5B

By Doris C. Dumlao

DEVELOPMENT BANK OF the Philippines sold ₱9.56 billion worth of bad assets to a unit of US investment bank Lehman Brothers under the Special Purpose Vehicle framework.

The deal, which was finalized after a bidding on Oct. 20, brought down the ratio of the bank's nonperforming assets to total assets to 1.92 percent from 4.45 percent, DBP president Reynaldo David said in a briefing yesterday.

Of the total assets unloaded, ₱5.8 billion consisted of nonperforming loans while real and other properties owned and acquired accounted for ₱3.77 billion.

David said he could not disclose the pricing of the deal and the buyer "values collected were more than what the bank is getting off bids or sales by Philippine financial institutions on the spot."

The buyer, Lehman Brothers Asian Investments Ltd., manages portfolio in the Philippines, Korea, Japan, China and Indonesia.

Lehman Brothers' other clients on the asset bid assets unloaded by other local banks such as Equitable PCIBank and Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.

LIFESTYLE
Edited by Cheche Banzali-Formoso

Monnalith
Tel. No. 687-60-77

Q & A on Vitamin C for the skin

IN THIS ISSUE

■ **TINA Juan** on the right ways to breathe /C3
■ **CORY Quirino** on lifting faces and lives /C4

THERE IS QUITE A NUMBER of skin lightening, skin rejuvenation, and anti-wrinkle products with Vitamin C in the market today. Vitamin C does have definite benefits for skin lightening, wrinkle reduction and skin rejuvenation. Here are the answers to frequently asked questions about using Vitamin C for the skin.

Why is Vitamin C good for the skin?

Vitamin C protects the skin's layers from damage caused by sun, smoke and aging. Dilute skin, in particular, may not get enough Vitamin C from the body's internally-based supply. Topical application to areas which need antioxidant protection is a good alternative.

How does Vitamin C act as an antioxidant?

Visible signs of aging like fine lines, wrinkles and age spots are caused by molecules known as free radicals.

They chemically multiply with exposure to sun, tobacco smoke, air pollution and other environmental assaults, damaging skin cells and breaking down collagen that gives skin its youthful resilience. Vitamin C carries out an antioxidant by neutralizing free radicals.

Why is ordinary Vitamin C a poor choice?

Conventional vitamin C (ascorbic acid) is so unstable it oxidizes and becomes useless upon contact with water, heat and light. It degrades so rapidly that 90 percent of its potency is gone after the first month in a typical product. Ordinary Vitamin C goes right into the water component, where it doesn't stand a chance against oxidation. Once degraded, it has no more vitamin potency on or off the skin.

Why use Vitamin C serum?

Vitamin C serum with at least 10 percent bioactive vitamin C won't irritate the skin the way ordinary acids. Vitamin C does. It penetrates deeply through the tough epidermal barrier of the skin. It provides potent doses of Vitamin C, so when you apply it, it sends concentrated doses Vitamin C directly to the skin.

How do you get Vitamin C directly into the skin without degrading?

Look for products that contain uniquely stable bioactive form of Vitamin C that doesn't degrade rapidly. Goddess Vitamin C serum contains at least 10 percent of the Vitamin C actively ready to work at room temperature. This means that customers get the Vitamin C they expect, so it can penetrate the skin as Vitamin C, not its degraded form.

Can Vitamin C lighten skin?

A study on stabilized Vitamin C demonstrated that it can be effective for skin lightening when used at 10 percent concentration (Source: Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology, December 1999, pages 23-231).

How do I get the most from Vitamin C serum?

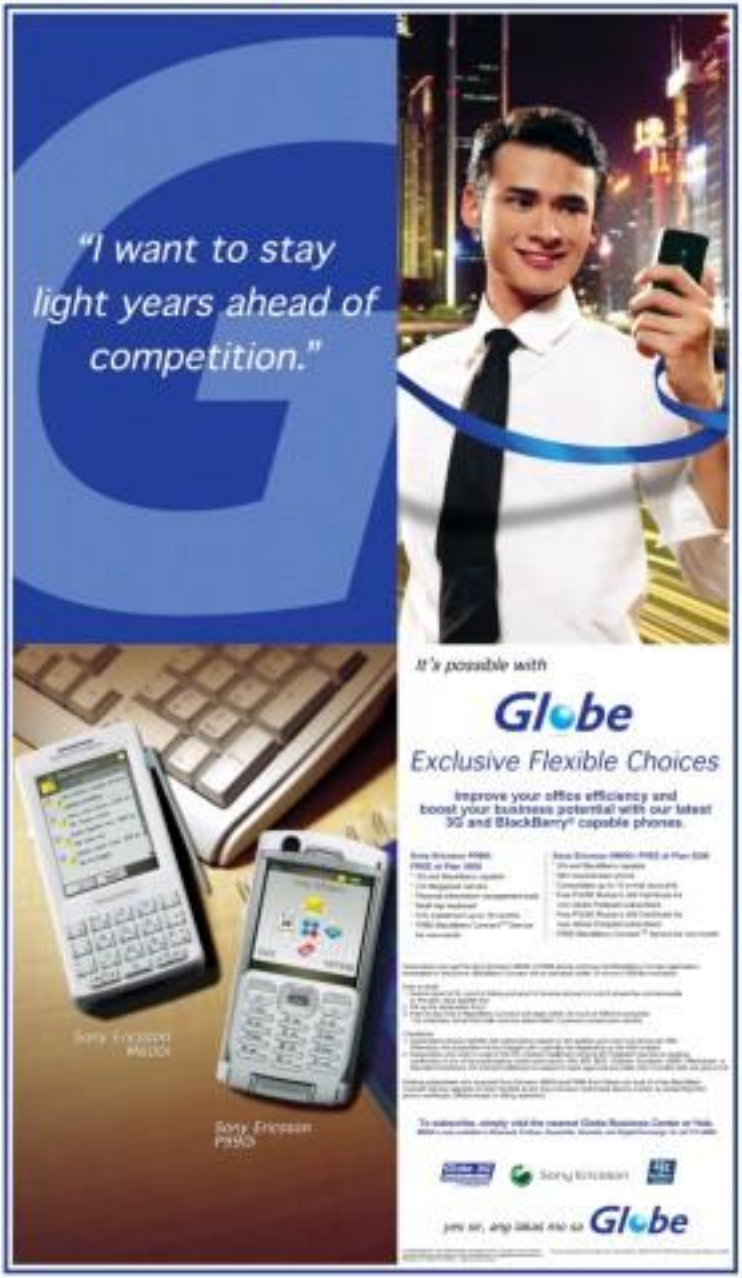
VITAMIN C Serum from at least 10 percent bioactive Vitamin C

Apply a few drops to clean face and neck. You may also apply on arms, hands, and other body parts. Vitamin C serum helps make youthful areas of bodies and should be part of your daily moisturizing regimen. Regular exfoliation with AHA cream and monthly chemical peel treatment will enhance penetration of the serum into the skin.

Should I also take a Vitamin C supplement?

Yes. Taking bioactive C orally helps your skin nicely and out, while Vitamin C serum works from the outside in.

The new Goddess Vitamin C serum is available at Goddess Skin Station, Watsons, Mercury Drug and other leading department stores.



CELEBRATOR Alice Yao Magno with (from row) Ricky de Jesus and Karen Mercado; (middle row) Baby Ortiz, Fervent Libres, Nina Lorenzo, Hani Basilio and Hani Lazarus; (back row) Cristina Conde, Ciri Salud, Mabel Alonzo and Melbi Abiera

WITH THE HOSTESSES with her affair, (front row) Family Blanco, Tricia Respicio, recital of Manaoag Festivities Alice Lachenza, Lo Syquia, Dr. Elenita Binay, Alice Briones, Ciki Quiba, Maricar Sobrepeña and Nini Laying; (second row) Celine Bautista, Olga M and Jasna Tantoco

LETTY Santos, Iving Madrigal Vasquez, Baby Cruz; (standing) Eri Gandara, Vicky Brand, Paola de Guzman, Nina Lorenzo and Dr. Ebony Vasquez

Not one but two parties for our resident party photographer

ACER with Phoebus A., Vinson and Expressions' Susan Jones, Ogie Rodrigues and Robert Castaneda

MARY Nori and Grace Tiongco

EVERYONE'S INLANGGA AND in demand, vacation-savvy, top star photographer Alex Von Magno has no time to celebrate his own birthday, so loads of his colleagues and loyal photo followers threw for him not one but two fun-to-the-parties, dahlings.

The first of the double-whammy happenings took place at the posh, upscale Manila Golf Club in Forbes Park, Makati, with Pat Gan Lee (more) hostesses with the mostest, Nenge Lorenzo and May Tirol, leading the coterie of charitable ladies in town, namely Mabel Abalos, Noni Ratilla, Cristina Conde, Baby de Jesus, Bobby Ortiz, Nini Llorens, Karen Montenegro, Bo Rodriguez and Ofel Subad, all ex-to-mindful women of substance, palangges.

Three days later, another equally memorable fun birthday bash for Alex was held at the fantastic, huge home of the adorable Tavares Tan-Mendoza Clan, with the help of Alex's loyal followers, like the proud hostess of the affair, Letty Syquia, Josie Sanchez, Fortune Lorenzana, Sunta Amparo, Ciki Quiba, Alice Briones, Dr. Elenita Binay, ex-boy Golfito Bautista, Fonny Blanco, Mimi Lanuza and Maricar Sobrepeña, plus tons of other pals from different closet-like and hallowed.

All the gals look glamour to the nth, and made me miss of the beach afternoon (especially unforgettable Aloi Vea Hagen would not leave from Sequito at the surprise birthday bash) from those beloved women who crammed and photographed well in his book of memories, palangges.

Famous Lion

A real Leonora Alex roared its way into town, palangges, when tal-

Photos by Alex Von Magno using Kodak EasyShare

ented Raj Nagpa, international Bacardi ambassador, a.k.a. Bacardi Lion, gave at a taste of the world-renowned rum. The Australian-based Raj joined Alex from as part of scores of celebrities to demonstrate to their fans and bestie-consciousness how to properly make iced cocktails. By the last night, we had a chance to taste Bacardi favorites like the increasingly popular Mojito, which we first tried in Cuba, palangges, and the winner Bacardi Cuba Libre. We also received tips on how to mix a perfect cocktail concoction.

The absolutely educational night inevitably turned into a series of Bacardi faves! The fun bash was superbly presented by Future Trade International, exclusive distributor of Bacardi in the country. The event was user-friendly hosted by Brenda & Jaclyn, absolutely handsome newscaster Carlo Bautista, Circulating like forever was Bacardi controller Ruby Ghanayem, Partner Trade sales and marketing director Angel Wringhim, marketing manager Kat San Diego and managing directors James Du Yhiler and Antonio Villaseñor, palangges.

Fifty Celada, Bacardi Bossa and Dolgirl were also all present and accounted for, darlings. From that point on, it was an endless night of mirrors and appetizer drinks, presented by some other Lion Bacardi, natch!

Sweet reading

Super achiever sisters Brak Ching and Elsa Ruddle of the renowned Pastry Biz, launched their 5th coffee table book "Baked to Sugar" at the Bigwin Ballroom of the Peninsula Manila, palangges. The book is illustrated with the fabulous cakes that Brak C. and Elsa R. have created for tons of top social events in the country, including the wedding of Fernando and Kit Silverio (Mike), as well as presidential offspring: Jackie Ejercito (for Bonnet Lopez) and Hilbert Arroyo (for Angela Montenegro) and Dodo Arroyo (for Jose Montenegro).

The book launch was superbly organized by Rita Nerl, and directed and hosted by Freddie Santos. Robert Ongsiako of UNOX created the stunning setting of hanging sweets and roses at the front, while Jun Dino of D' Flavio Bagels had the main hall abloom with yellow tulips. The scrumptious eye-catchers were the awesome giant sugar reproduction of a Chinese pagoda and four magnificent floral vases, created by Brak and Elsa, naturellement.

Guests included happily married, gorgeous Becky Ilas (who like Lala Sante de Leon, Andrea Bautista-Alonzo, Audrey Sun Pabiol, Gianna Erkana-Aragon, Grace Rasheta-Rojo, Ann de Borja-Pena and Kat Tan Hui, her namesake) paddles included Bobby Sy, Edwin Chan, Chang Sheng Tay, Filipino-Chinese Chamber of Commerce president Francis Chua, ballroomdler Santa Tuy's wife, vivacious adorable

DELIA Salonga, Shirley Uy and Ruby Tuason

HENRIETTE Guevara and Lucille Villanueva

SISTERS Lo Santos Bonn and Fy Santos Rodrigues

CHARM Co

BEST Vergara, Lo Bernardo and Debbie Manansala

MAGNIFICO Alex Von Magno with Ricky de Jesus and Karen Mercado

ARGENTO Charlie Always and ever cooking Christmas San Diego

PUBLICIST Philip Adalim and Future Trade's Melvin Tobias

MAGNIFICO Alex Sy and Sherie Lacsamana

HEY, good-looking, Ayala Sosa with Glue and Jay Sarza

SWEET Queen Prod. Ching and Sherif Ruddle with their book "Baked to Sugar"

Join Enchanted Kingdom's Spooky Halloween Gathering on October 28! Wear a full costume and you can come in for free*, plus Buenaflor! There will also be a Spooktacular Fireworks display on October 28 and 29 at 9pm. So gear up and get ready to scream!

*Free entrance via a Costume Special Pass for guests aged 36" (that is 3'0) and up. Guests below 36" (or 3'0") and Zoo Pass holders are outside the EK Laguna Premier Inc. © All rights reserved. Other names and brands may be claimed as the property of others.

PEPSI GMA CASIO

SM MAPA Park Address: San Lorenzo South, City of Santa Rosa, Laguna • Makati Sales Office: Ground Floor, The Milleni

Two ways to be fooled

INQUIRER ARCHIVES
Jaime T. Licauco

Strange but true events are normally and routinely ignored by established science and the academe

RECENTLY, A GROUP of students from a well-known private college for women in Quezon City called me to connection with a research paper they were doing on telekinesis.

They had heard of my course on ESP (over sixteen perceptual) that covered telekinesis, among other psychic abilities.

They wanted to know if I was serious about it. I told them I was serious of such an offer but had not seen the professor. They must be either big on the challenge American magician James Randi (who calls himself the Great Randi) made to anyone who could prove that telekinesis was true.

I told the students not to get anxious as Dame Blanch because he was not the leader of psychic phenomena. When somebody comes up to prove telekinesis, Randi changes the rules. Randi always finds loopholes so that in the end, he concludes nothing has been proven.

For years, Randi hounded and harassed well-known Israeli psychic Uri Geller, saying he was mocking but a fake psychic, that it was not true Geller could bend metallic spoons, keys and rings with his mind alone, despite numerous public demonstrations that the psychic was able to do so.

After years of ignoring and saying to get away from Randi, Geller finally fought back. He filed a libel case against Randi and won.

The court ordered Randi not to come within a specified distance from Geller or he would be arrested. Randi was also asked to give Geller a certain amount for all the mental torture and emotional trauma he has caused.

Although Randi was forced to stop harassing Geller, the court order did not include other people, so Randi still manages to harass those who believe in psychic phenomena. He lauds a small but very young called the Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal (CSICOP) and publishes the Skeptical Inquirer, the main purpose of which is to show that those who believe in such things are nuts!

However, serious academic and scientific researchers like Dr. Robert Jahn of Princeton University; Dr. Russell Targ, formerly with the Stanford Research Institute, among others, simply ignore the antics and wild accusations of Randi.

In Princeton University Biomedicine Pharmacology Department, for example, engineer Robert Jahn and psychologist Brenda Dunne have been quietly researching telekinesis for the last 15 or 20 years. They have proved, under strict laboratory conditions, that telekinesis exists. They did this by having subjects influence the fall of the dice on a computer machine using only the power of their thoughts. They even couldn't calculate the mathematical probabilities to show whether this was purely by chance or if it was influenced by their minds.

The two were never a pioneering book, "Margins of Reality" detailing the methodology they used and the results they obtained. Every skeptic should read this book before they take sports his her mouth regarding the reality of telekinesis.

I am not really interested in proving to skeptics that psychic powers and paranormal phenomena exist. That is not my job or intention. I only want to share with interested people and readers strange but true events that are normally and routinely ignored by established science and the academe.

Parapsychologist Gertrude R. Schmeidler of the City College of New York conducted a series of studies on the relationship between ESP and personality traits way back in 1975.

She divided people into two classes. Those who believed in ESP she called "sheep." The group viewed believe in ESP were "goats." This group did poorly in ESP tests. Randi definitely is a "goat" and thinks like one.

I told the students it was good to be interested in a healthy skepticism, but not to adopt to hate values everything a person told them. But to verify everything. This way they might learn something their teacher would never teach them in school: the keys for mental control to the vast secret of reality.

As I have often said here, ancient sage is philosopher Soren Kierkegaard, "There are two ways to be fooled. One is to believe what is not true. The other is to refuse to believe what is true."

More breathing techniques

Jaime
Well and Good
True Alert

When all else fails, just breathe. Don't hold your breath for any length of time

[illegible] school on [illegible] of a textbook and [illegible] deep breath. If you inched your stomach out and watch your chest rise with your shoulders raised, you are did "high chest" breathing, which is considered the least inefficient way to breathe because your chest are the lower two-thirds of your lungs.

Shallow chest breathing means less energy during exercise because you get less air per breath. It results in increasing breathlessness and fatigued before the workout is over.

It is also connected to stress since "fight or flight" is characterize. Stress triggers a rapid shallow breathing, which causes blood vessels in our inner and blood pressures to rise, which in turn makes us feel more agitated and stressed.

The same goes for conditions like asthma. In asthma attacks are cut shallows breathing, which then makes the asthma worse.

Diaphragmatic breathing

This is the most relaxed and natural form of breathing. You should be using this technique when you are calm, such as when you are relax chested. This is also the type of breathing used in tai chi and yoga. It is also known as belly breathing, soft stomach breathing, and low breathing.

The diaphragm is a muscle-tendon membrane that separates your lower and lungs from the organs in your abdominal cavity. It looks like an upside-down bowl.

When you inhale, your diaphragm pulls downward to give your lungs room to expand. It helps to create a vacuum in your lungs so air can rush in. When you exhale, it relaxes upward to help compress the lungs and expel the air out.

The abdomen expands outward slightly when you inhale and the diaphragm pushes downward. The abdomen deflates or pulls in toward the spine when you exhale and the diaphragm is pushed upward. If you watch what's happening, you will see the gentle rise and fall of the belly.

If you are not sure how to properly use your diaphragm, lie down and place something heavy like a 2- to 5-lb bag of rice on your upper abdomen. The bag should move upward when you inhale and downward when you exhale. This exercise is designed for strengthening the diaphragm in yoga, as a called cantling breathing.

Ribcage breathing

This is a hallmark of Pilates and is also known as lateral breathing and intercostals breathing. There are some yoga teachers who say this is the true diaphragmatic breathe. The chest and lower abdomen are kept still and only the ribcage and diaphragm do the work. The ribcage expands outwards like an accordion.

The purpose is to stabilize and protect your spine while you are in different exercise positions. So it is better to wear abdominal muscles tight but still allowing you to take in enough air by expanding the ribcage laterally. It is also highly useful when you are wearing a tight outfit and you want to minimize "flat tire" without exciting bloat.

Here's how to practice lateral breathing. Simply double wrap a long sash around your ribcage. Lie on your back with your knees bent. You should feel you can sliding to expand sideways when you inhale. Next, fail- ure a plastic ball on your lower abdomen. The ball shouldn't move or fall off when you inhale or exhale.

Cadence breathing

This technique is also known as measured breathing and the "working breath" in yoga. It is used in rhythmic exercises like walking, running, cycling and swimming. Doing it rite ve- go you silently count out your inhalations and exhalations and match them with the number of steps you take. For example, inhale for four steps and exhale for four steps. This is called 4-4 breathing. You can create a wide variety "moving meditations," variations used in tai- ranga-ve-long:

- 2-2 (during relaxed running, inhale for two steps, exhale for two)
- 3-3 (for brisk walking, hard to fast)
- 2-2 (during relaxed running, alternate the foot you inhale on)

It take much or a deep pain in the upper abdomen may be caused by a spasm in the liga- ament. Hold pressure on the area as you do upbringer. Since the liver is on the right side of your body, cadence breathing on the left foot may help. For an on belly breathing and exhale when your left foot makes the ground.

Strength training

When lifting weights, the basic rule is to exhale on the exertion or the hardest part.

- When doing pushing exercises like a bench press, inhale when you chance the bar back to the start.
- When doing pulling exercises like a lat- pulldown, exhale when you pull toward you.
- When doing body-weight exercises like a push-up or squat, exhale when you lift your body away from the floor.
- When doing abdominal or crunches, exhale when you feel your spine.

Just breathe

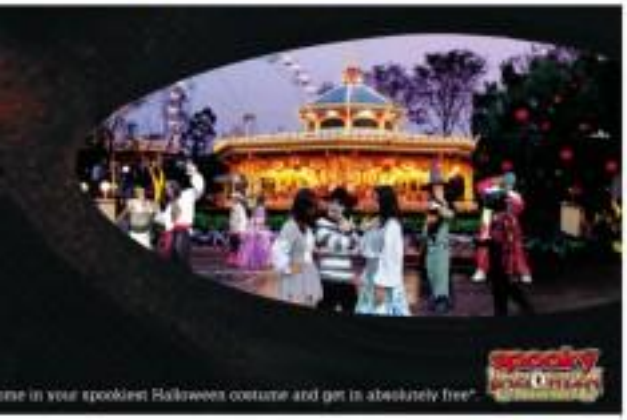
If all these rules make you dizzy just remember the cardinal rule: When all else fails, just breathe. Don't hold your breath for too length or time. At minimum say. Breathe through your nose. Breathe through your mouth. Breathe through your ears, if you can.

Note: Yoga Manila will hold classes by Anthonique Maxine Bautista Paul Darlington. She is a BFAA student of Advantage Jennifer Tee E. Pascual. Call 894-26- 226 3917-0252-5364 or email [illegible]

The Art of Living will hold a six-day seminar on breathing to relieve stress Nov. 6-11 and Nov. 27-Dec. 2. Cost is P5,000. Call Manuela at (0917) 7830280 or e-mail art_philippines@yahoo.com.

TEA TREE OIL FOR YOUR TEETH

HOE Menorah Pulltex is a gel toothpaste combining the beneficial properties of bee propolis and tea tree oil for complete care for your teeth and gums. Its unique formula is designed to help cure of the buildup of tartar and plaque while protecting long-lasting fresh breath.



ome in your spookiest Halloween costume and get in absolutely free*

ound a chance to win sweet prizes. Just leaps and accommodations to Boracay and Tiet

Enchanted Kingdom
The magic stays with you.

Conferences, 102 Aguirre St. Legaspi Vill, Makati City. Tel. Nos. 810-51-11 to 18 and 843-60-71 to 78. www.enchantedkingdom.com.ph

EXERCISE OF THE WEEK

Split-leg forward bend

THIS EXERCISE STRETCHES THE BACK OF the legs and the lower back.

Equipment
None

Exercise technique

1. Stand with legs apart in a split stance. Both feet should be facing forward. Arms should be at your sides.
2. Bend forward and reach your hands toward the floor.
3. Hold the stretch for the desired length of time.
4. To come up slowly, press your feet into the floor to straighten your legs.

Performance tips

1. Increase or reduce your stance by adjusting your back leg if you feel you need less or more of a stretch.
2. If you have adequate flexibility in your hamstrings, lower your head down toward your toes to feel the stretch in the lower back.
3. Bend your knee if you feel pressure at the back of the knee joint.
4. Easier: Place your hands on your front leg for greater support.
5. Harder: Clasp your hands behind your back.

Repetitions
Hold the stretch for at least 30 seconds

Wild yam for facial lift

IS THERE AN ULTIMATE to-do list that ensures optimum health? Unfortunately, there is none.

But the good news is, health and beauty regimens evolve with everyone discovery.

Here are some things worth considering to help you in your journey on the road to wellness:

Natural hormones

Balance is the state of wellness that the body seeks to "feel right."

Hormones play an important role keeping this balance. Hormones of the endocrine system, hormones regulate the body and are responsible for a series of functions in the creation of life, growth and development, reproductive, aging, emotions and hormone behavior.

Without balance, the human body is at risk of invasion from bacteria, viruses, etc. Hormonal imbalance can manifest in various forms: Fatigue, insomnia, irregularities, osteoporosis, depression, hot flashes, cold sweat, moodiness, frequent urination, etc.

With the growing controversy surrounding HRT (hormone replacement therapy), people have turned to natural hormone therapy.

Biological medicine uses transdermic Diosorea Villosa or wild yam. This yam contains 18 hormone precursors.

The elements help restore hormones to self-balance, assisting the body to achieve stability. Isoactive also uses glycine soya protein, vitamin E and grape seed extract, this product, called Isoactive, has an anti-aging effect.

To see demonstration, after applying the cream to the right side of the face, its remarkable result can be seen. The effect was seen on one side of the face.

When applied on the other side, the effect on the face was balanced making it look rested. CLARA'S, for details call or Marivic, 0917 8080477.

Greatest lift of all

There isn't a lift as great as the one you give yourself. A gift that comes from the inside, it's nothing more than positive, uplifting self-talk.

Some call it prayer, others meditation or affirmation, however you wish to look at it, it's one and the same. An attempt to connect with the spirit can be the best lift of all.

And, if done on a regular basis, it can only give you one benefit —centered-ness of heart and mind that can only lead to everything more true.

Make it a practice to have a quiet time each day. It is not only our body that thrives, our soul does, too.

Beauty regimen:

Cleanse and exfoliate. Remove the cuticle. Push lightly on dry parts of your body. This should soften it after two minutes. Rinse.

Affirmation:

"I create peace in all I do."
Love and light!

INSIDE OUT
Coy Quirino

INCEST!!!!! The St. Luke's Center for Liver Diseases, headed by Dr. Jules Dupre Carvajal (third from right), sets the pace in the country's fight against hepatitis and other forms of liver disorders through various high-impact and pioneering scientific programs and breakthroughs. Besides Dupre-Carvajal, the team consists of (from left) radiological technologist Yen R. Dagoc and janitress I. Arid, research assistant Ryan S. Sharn, transplant program coordinator Dinah O. Catalino, chief of the liver transplant service Dr. Ron Mario Rosero-Laparan, liver transplant surgeon Dr. Wilfredo Pulido, Jr. and assistant head Dr. Joseph Bendes.

Fighting bone disease

LIFE TO THE MAX: It is an anti-osteoporosis program that aims to increase awareness of the problem among Filipinos and to encourage seniors, overall, that have osteoporosis to live life to the fullest.

The program was launched recently by pharmaceutical company Merck Sharp & Dohme (MSD), with the Osteoporosis Society of the Philippines Inc.

The 10-day recovery also encourages seniors to their senior years to seek effective medical treatment for osteoporosis.

Osteoporosis Day was observed around the world last Oct. 20.

Women at risk of osteoporosis and who may not be getting enough Vitamin D should consult their physicians. They may ask about a new treatment for osteoporosis that combines the bone-building medicine alendronate with Vitamin D. The combination helps assist the problem of Vitamin D insufficiency.

Call 8706358 or, toll-free, 1-800-1-888-8727.

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Bonnie G. Velarde

Thank you, Binoe

DOLLY WOOD
Dolly Anne Carvajal

BOOST TO GMA FILMS AND TFC FILMS for producing "I'll Hot You," the film outfits' first project together. It raked in a whopping P6.4 million during its opening day and may surpass the P100-million mark in its entire run.

The Regine Velasquez-Rubin Padilla tragic-comedy (under Ina Feleo's direction) was among the highlights during the launch of the movie's soundtrack (under Ivolmusic), which contains the laughable version of "Hallo," "Chin's Go," "Mangarap Ka" by Dennis Trillo and "Hijole" (duet with Binoe), among others. Regine was in her element during the launch.

HOT DUETS. Barbie and Kimbie are set to perform in a back-to-back concert.

The capital the audience to enshrine P3D to their request slips. The crowd played along, donating P1,000 bills and even yen!

Binoe sang live and Regine kept reading him because, for the first time, he wasn't officially Regine's husband (Padilla really calls "Mr. President" because he's president of I-Music and she's the VP/treasurer) and Jimmy Gibbs joined them onstage. They brought the house down with their comical rendition of "Bakit Ngayon Ka Lang?" I was touched when Regine mentioned my mom's name. "Perform my bedroom scene. Bi-linis ko na si Air Lady (Imee Bautista)."

She still has a sore throat after singing her heart out during her 20th anniversary concert. But that didn't stop her from giving her all at the launch.

What touched me even more was when Binoe approached me. It's been ages since our "secret romance" hit the headlines and things turned tense between us. Shortly after the ceremony broke out, he got reconvinced.

At my mom's wake, Binoe and I ignored each other. My friends told me that while I was crying hysterically by my Ma's casket, Binoe was watching from afar. How sweet, naman indeed! But our "silent peace pact" at the launch was light and easy. Six words were spoken. Just a right handshake.

My friends told me that while I was crying by my Ma's casket, Binoe was watching from afar

The Grandest Christmas Bazaar in the Country!

world bazaar festival

for BANTAY KALIKASAN

07-17 December 2006

World Trade Center Metro Manila

Monday to Saturday – 12nn to 10pm
Friday to Sunday – 10am to 12mn

Highlights
- Night Market
- Fashion Show
- Musical Show
- Photo Session with Celebrities
- Celebrity Room
- International Village
- Playland
- Farmer's Bakery

Organized by: WORLDBEX SERVICES INTERNATIONAL

Tel: (632) 534 1332; 534 3615
Email: info@worldbex.com Website: www.worldbex.com

SHANG CINEPLEX

1 MOBILE PHONE CHARGER
2 THE BANQUET
3 THE DEPARTED
4 THE GUARDIAN
PREMIERE THEATRE

Catch the Cineplex Special

Shangri-La Plaza

Eastwood City

SAGIP KABATAANG GUIMARAS

26/OCT./2006 @ 8PM

EASTWOOD CINEMAS

THE BANQUET
MOBILE PHONE CHARGER
THE DEPARTED / THE GUARDIAN
EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

607-6963
GUARANTEED SEATS

Find your way to a million pesos.

Join LUK4THEMILLION City Adventure. LUK4 Mobile Yellow Pages will be your guide as you race around the city, using only your mobile phone to search for the million peso grand prize. For details, log on to www.luk4.com.

LUK4 the Million CITY ADVENTURE

SM CINEMA

movietime
SHOWTIME
Your life as a movie

movietime exclusive premiere

NOW SHOWING AT SM CINEMA MANILA
starting October 25.

NOW SHOWING | COMING SOON

ANNAPOLIS | Now | Coming Soon | Thank You For Backing

movietime

WORLD TRADE CENTER

NOW SHOWING

SHOWTIME | EVENT CALENDAR

the APO experience

October 27, 2008 • 8:30 pm
Tickets at P999 • P1,199 • P1,325

MEGAMALL Cinema 10

Tickets available at TICKETWORLD 891-9999

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS MOVIE GUIDE

MOVIEWORLD

CINEMA ACCESS
635-5555
FOR ALL BRANCHES

www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

MOVIES/SCHEDULES/PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

GALLERIA

1 MY FIRST WEDDING – THX
2 WORLD TRADE CENTER
3 THE GUARDIAN
4 THE DEPARTED
5 THE BANQUET
6 TXT
7 TILL I MET YOU
8 BARNYARD
9 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
10 EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

ERMITA

1 WORLD TRADE CENTER
2 THE TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
3 TXT
4 TILL I MET YOU
5 THE GUARDIAN
6 EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH
7 THE BANQUET

METRO EAST

1 BARNYARD
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 THE BANQUET
4 WORLD TRADE CENTER
5 EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH
6 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
7 THE GUARDIAN
8 TXT

NOVALICHES

1 WORLD TRADE CENTER
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 THE GUARDIAN
4 TXT
5 THE BANQUET

CITISQUARE MALABON | PIONEER

1 THE BREED
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE
1 WORLD TRADE CENTER
2 THE BANQUET
3 TILL I MET YOU
4 EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

STA. ROSA

1 THE DEPARTED
2 TXT
3 TILL I MET YOU
4 POSSESSED BY EVIL

LIPA

1 THE GUARDIAN
2 TXT
3 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
4 TILL I MET YOU

DASMARINAS

1 PULSE
2 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
3 TXT
4 TILL I MET YOU

ANGELES

1 DEAD OR ALIVE
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 TXT
4 PULSE

IMUS

1 THE BANQUET
2 TXT
3 WORLD TRADE CENTER
4 TILL I MET YOU

STARMILLS

1 THE GUARDIAN
2 TXT
3 TILL I MET YOU
4 THE BREED
5 PULSE
6 FLY BOYS

BACOLOD

1 THE DEPARTED
2 STEP UP
3 TILL I MET YOU
4 THE BREED
5 TXT
6 FLY BOYS

ILOILO

1 THE DEPARTED
2 TXT
3 TILL I MET YOU
4 DEAD OR ALIVE

Thank you, Binoe

From page B1

Sometimes, feelings can touch where words can't reach. It's such a relief that the ambassadress herself chose to tweet us a new game. Thank you, Binoe for making me feel that the "you" I get close to during your turbulence relocation days is Marvin Raja is still there. Thank you for loving my Mom like you mean. I can vouch for how much she loved you like a son.

I know it's a smiling from up above, seeing that you're back on top again and that you've made a career to rekindle the "family ties" the hell as with. I can almost hear her say "Till I Meet You again, Binbin." No doubt that she went to heaven to tell my Mom to sustain in her your movie's sentiment PRO and your number one defender.

Rock princesses

ISSUES: Aiko Melendez and Ritchie Madal are there's new image models. The clothing line has thought of showing their cannot can also be using. It's for free updated women with a rugged sense of style.

Barbie and Kirche don't consider each other rivals. They are excited for the back-to-back concert to be mounted by them in January. While Barbie is happily settled with hubby Marlo Mourtzis (Ber was 13 kids!), Kirche is giving herself two more years before getting married. But she has an BF now—by choice, not by circumstance.

Kirche would rather not name her suitors. "Mahirap na baka mag-away pa sila (laughs)." But there's no denying that Barbie's relationship issues Karen Bordon (for Barbie) and Boots (for Kirche), they can look like right in the eye, knowing that they are dressed for the part.

Red-hot Alfred

IT'S a red-letter day for Alfred Vargas as he turns 35. So while he and his birthday in advance last Friday at Aruba, with lady love Li Reyes hardly leaving his side. She gave him a traveler's guide. Then he looking forward to their first trip to Florida with her close this December. She dreams of going to Paris with him someday.

Huge stupidities of Alfred to his fellow bitch were displayed at the venue. I teased Li. Tin: sure you have all those as wallpaper in your room?" She giggled. "No need. I can have the real thing."

Alfred bidded his pa guests that his inspiration are so be anxious. The bewitched guy hugged Alfred for our each and he generously gave in. For sure, they're discussing about the birthday boy in his birthday suit.

Mags' annie

JOKE the anchored-

Turn to B2

Thank you, Binoe

From page B4

And party on Dec. 16. Lyons at the SM Mall of Asia Entertainment Center, as Mega Magazine and Publikasimo Inc. celebrate 5 Magazine, Inside Showbiz Magazine and Celebrity Living Magazine in its prestigious family. It's also Lyong's 30th and Inside Showbiz's second an- courtesy. There will be a fashion show featuring Gwen Zamora's holiday collection. The entertainment will be hosted by Shireen Agustin, Jay Aleman, Carlos Agassi, Iowl, Eagle Domingo, Ryan Upson, CJ Flores and Jackie Rice. Big names in the biz are expected to come.

Lost lovin' it

MDN boy singing sensation Lovi launched her new song "Everything You Wanted" on "LOL". It's her third single from her debut CD "The Best of Me Heart." She's going on a nationwide mall tour in November. Lovi is equally excited for her role as Crystal (the beautiful daughter) on "Habulang." For her fans

FOXTROT — BY BILL AMEND

A LINK — BY DOS ABREN

BABY BLUES — BY JERRY SCOTT

PUGAD BABOY — BY NIK. SPEEK

RUTTS — BY PATRICK ROSENWELL

LOVEBOTS — BY ELIZABETH CHOMICKI

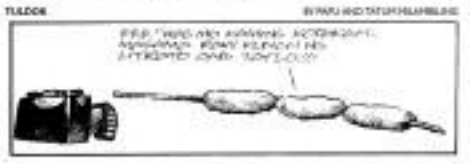
ATOMIC AND WEEDY — BY LISA GARCELAND

DIVINE COMEDY — BY STEVEN PANUNZIO

BIKOYNICHIBI — BY FAMOU ABREN

HIKIKOMORI — BY CHRISTESCO

TULDOK — BY PARU AND TATUM HUMANGLING



BEN — BY DANIEL SHELTON

DAILY CROSSWORD

HOROSCOPE

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku — by Dave Green

9	2	5	6					1
	3						9	8
				4	2			5
		8						3
		6				1		
1						6		
2			7	3				
7	6						3	
5					8	7	2	6

Difficulty Level ★★

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and programs at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

7	1	9	2	3	4	8	5	6
6	4	2	5	9	8	3	1	7
3	8	5	7	6	1	4	9	2
4	3	8	1	7	2	5	6	9
2	9	6	3	5	8	7	4	1
1	5	7	6	4	9	2	3	8
8	7	1	4	2	3	9	8	5
9	2	4	8	8	5	1	7	9
5	6	3	9	1	7	8	2	4

'Ilusyon' woos Korean audiences

Front page D4

competed in the film fest, were announced on Oct. 23.

The Kongo-collared, like the steadfast video made by Boschmans, "touch you and film folders to give out in the film market," Joyce said in a text message sent before leaving for France.

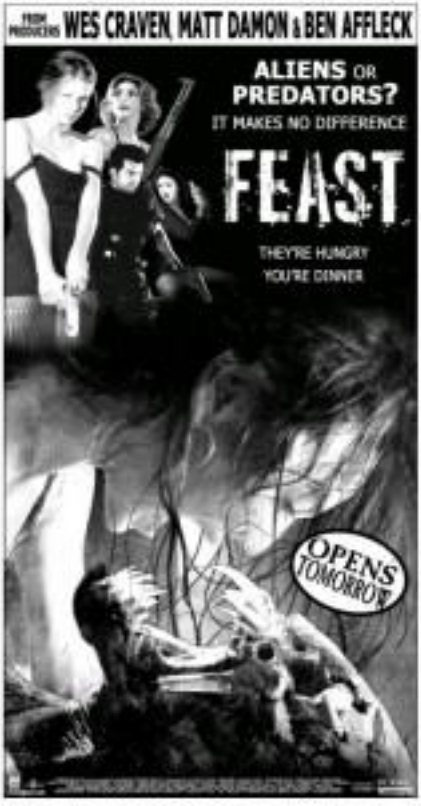
The Asian Market held from Oct. 23 to 25 featured special events and panels including "Free Summit mini," a summit of Asia's leading lifestyle and talent agencies, according to www.asianlifestyle.org.

Meanwhile, the 10th Ahisan International Documentary Film Festival in the Czech Republic is starting its 2006 Best Universal Documentary Film Award after its one-year hiatus. Filipino indie filmmaker Khavn de la Cruz

Hungary, UK, Japan, Germany, India, Sweden, Portugal, Denmark, France, USA, Taiwan, Russia and Switzerland.

The Ahisan Market will be held from Oct. 24 to 29 and will do a retrospective of the la Cruz's works under the section titled, "Transformer Brings." It is the seventh time an international film fest has focused on De la Cruz's works.

"Transformer Beings" will present the world premiere of Khavn's "Banton: Alamat ng Bigkasot (Memory of Bronzeing)," and screenings of "Swing Rings" and four of his short films: "Cook Slippers," "The Fairy Musical," "Rugby Rose" and "John Cage."



MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION
MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING

'Ilusyon' woos Korean audiences

Viva's romantic drama to be screened in 30 theaters

By Pharrel B. Cruz

FILMMAKER Jeffrey Jeturian (left) and actress Dina Ferreira (extreme right) with Korean fans

Viva Entertainment has inked a distribution deal with Korean-based CJ Entertainment for its romantic drama "Ilusyon" in the three-day 3rd Asian Film Market of the 2006 Pusan International Film Festival Market in Busan.

In the Oct. 17 issue of Busan's Yonsey magazine, Viva executive vice president Vicente del Rosario was quoted as saying that "Ilusyon" will be screened in 30 theaters all over Korea—the first-ever eight-digit deal for a Filipino film in Dad (movie).

Set in 1930, "Ilusyon" tells the story of Miguel Del Servo, who visits his father Pablo, a modernist painter in Manila. When he meets multi-model Stella Cristina Pacheco, he gets mesmerized by her beauty and proceeds to Pablo.

The digital film is a collaboration of directors Paolo Villaluna and Elwin Romero. It is the second offering of Digital Kino, the first being John Red's "Bwaw."

"Ilusyon" debuted and competed in last year's Digital Lokal Competition of the Directorate's Innovation of Film Festivals.

Crowd favorites

Considered crowd favorites among the Filipino films in the film market were Jeffrey Jeturian's "Kubrador," Adolf (KK) Tuason's "Kuwaresma," Mike Sandejas' "Tuhod ng Diyos," Robert Quebe-al's "Good Scouts" and Joyce Bernal's "Ngiwa Sa Langit," told Film Development Council (FDCP) vice chairperson Cristina Bayot.

"Many inquiries for distribution of our films will surely translate into more box office sales," Bayot told Inquirer Entertainment on Wednesday. "The Philippine Consulate in Busan headed by Ambassador Sixto Carreon hosted a Philippine Film Market that was attended by [illegible]."

The Philippine delegation, which left for Pusan on Oct. 14, arrived in Manila on Oct. 18. "Kubrador" and "Tuhod ng Diyos," which

Robinsons MOVIEWORLD
CAN be YOUR CINEMA!
THX
CINEMANIA

MTRCB PG-13
THE NO. 1 U.S. MOVIE UNLEASHES HELL ON OCTOBER 25!
Two years ago a door was opened and a grudge was born.
This halloween, what was contained will be unleashed.
THE GRUDGE 2
FROM SAM RAIMI
THE DIRECTOR OF SPIDERMAN 1 & 2

POWER PLANT CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City
THE HUNGOVER PEST
BANDSTAND
WORLD TRADE CENTER
THE BANQUET
CHRYSALIDE THE FOURTH
WORLD TRADE CENTER

ARANETA CENTER
Gateway MALL
ScreenersPlace
THE ONLY COMPLEX IN THE COUNTRY
Greenbelt CINEMAS 1 to 10
TXT
THE BANQUET
WORLD TRADE CENTER
EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH
TONG DARAHAN MADADE
TILL I MET YOU
MY FIRST WEDDING
THE DISPARITY
THE GUARDIAN
WORLD TRADE CENTER
MALL 5
1 TXT
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 WORLD TRADE CENTER
4 BARANG
5 THE BANQUET
ARANETA COLISEUM
2006-2007 PBA PHILIPPINE CUP
BEE GEES GREATEST HITS LIVE !

MTRCB PG-13
A HONG KONG 2007 OSCAR ENTRY, NOW TOPPING ASIAN BOX OFFICE RECORDS!
ZIYI ZHANG
the Banquet
NOW SHOWING

MTRCB G GENERAL PATRONAGE
ALL AGES ADMITTED
REGINE-ROBIN tandem does it again!!!
1 BOX-OFFICE HIT!!!
Robin Padilla Regine Velasquez
"There exists a natural chemistry between Regine and Robin. They exude each other spontaneously and make a handsome pair on screen. What starts as an amusing comedy segues into a sugary romance and eventually ends with inevitable choices one has to make in the name of love."
- The CINEMA EVALUATION BOARD Graded B
Till i met you
A film by Mark A. Reyes (digs)
NOW ON ITS SECOND WEEK!
Text TILL to 4627
Rated "B"